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# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**OPINION METER**

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## INSIDE

**Damage Control**

In public, Toyota is running apologetic TV ads and vowing to win back customers' trust. Behind the scenes, the besieged carmaker is trying to learn all it can about congressional investigations, maybe even steer them if it can.

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**Charges Filed**

Philippine prosecutors filed charges Tuesday against the head of a powerful clan and 195 others in the biggest and deadliest murder case since the country's World War II war crimes trials.

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**A-Rod's Gal**

Model Brooklyn Decker landed the coveted Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover this year.

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## JAPANESE LAWMAKERS MAKE BRIEF STOP ON SAIPAN

# Relocation of up to 4,000 US troops to CNMI mulled

**SUNSET CRUISE** HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

With Saipan's landmark Managaha Island in the background, musician Jerry Alcantara entertains Japanese and Korean tourists aboard the *Jade Lady III* minutes before the cruise passengers were treated to Saipan's flaming sunset (inset photo). CNMI tourism saw a 12 percent drop in arrivals in December alone with only 30,155 compared to 34,181 on the same month the previous year but businesses look to improved arrival figures this year.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Visiting Japanese lawmakers said yesterday they may recommend the relocation of 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops from the aviation units at Futenma in Japan to the CNMI, on top of the 8,000 Marines to be relocated from Okinawa to Guam, said Senate Pres. Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

National Diet or Japan Legislature members Mikio Shimoji, Tomoko Abe, and Ryoichi Hattori met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), and Manglona at the Saipan airport yesterday afternoon, on their way to Guam.

*See RELOCATION on Page 4*

# CNMI asks feds to put visitor's center on Tinian

## Inclusion in 'Manhattan Project' historical park system eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz have jointly asked Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to help build a museum or visitor's center that will depict Tinian's role in World War II, even as a "Manhattan Project National Historical Park" system is being created.

Tinian was the staging area for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war.

The operations on Tinian was one of the most important phases of the "Manhattan Project," the codename for

*See CNMI on Page 4*

# Fund investment assets grow 20% in first quarter

**RELATED NEWS**

- Retirees Association wants to intervene in Fund's suit vs gov't.

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund posted a positive mark in its investment assets in the first four months of the fiscal year, indicating a 20 percent growth.

Aguon

Fund Administrator Mark A. Aguon disclosed this during the Saipan Rotary Club meeting last Tuesday, citing the figure is a reflection of

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**Camacho invites Fitial to Guam for Obama's visit. PAGE 2**

OPA urged to probe newly renovated NI mayor's office, Rebuenog. **PAGE 5**

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# Local

## Camacho invites Fitial to Guam for Obama's visit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho has invited CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to Guam for President Barack Obama's visit on his way to Indonesia and Australia in March.

"I will be sending a letter to the White House informing them that I have invited Governor Fitial to Guam for the president's visit," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Tuesday.

He said Obama and the whole first family will be in Guam on March 19.

Fitial, in a separate interview yesterday, said he has accepted Camacho's invitation to go to Guam for the presidential visit.

Camacho

Fitial

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs, in a Feb. 1 transcript of statements during a news briefing, said Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Sasha and Malia "will visit Guam, where he will speak with U.S. service members on the island."

The presidential visit comes at a time when the military buildup in Guam is looming, although Camacho earlier wrote to U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to delay the buildup until after 2014 "to protect the integrity of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and ensure that impacts are minimized to our island infrastructure and socioeconomic services."

Fitial had said he "recognizes the immense potential opportunities of a presidential visit to the Marianas."

The CNMI Senate had already adopted a resolution formally inviting Obama to visit the CNMI when he and his family stop on Guam on their way to Indonesia and Australia next month.

Senators said it will be a "great honor" and an "extraordinary privilege" to have Obama pay an official visit to the CNMI while he is in the region.

They said a presidential visit will bring to the fore issues critical to the CNMI, including the recent federalization of its immigration, the military buildup in Guam that will also impact the CNMI, and the creation of the Marianas Trench National Monument and the authorization for a visitor center in the region. Senate Resolution 17-03 was introduced by Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan).

Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) also introduced House Resolution 17-5, officially inviting Obama to visit the CNMI, but the House has yet to act on the resolution.

If and when Obama visits the CNMI, he will be the first sitting U.S. president to ever set foot in the CNMI.

The highest ranking U.S. official to set foot in the CNMI's capital of Saipan is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan. Bush flew to Saipan on his way to a six-day visit to China in October 1985.

## Dive boat crews rescue stranded swimmer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Dive boat crews rescued a stranded 44-year-old swimmer outside the reef line of Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio on Tuesday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that the swimmer, Nobuyoshi Senga, was not injured.

David said preliminary investigation showed that Senga and a friend were snorkeling in the lagoon of Pak Pak Beach.

While Senga was along the reef line, big waves and strong current swept him out the of reef line. He tried several times to swim back into the lagoon, but failed due to the rough water condition.

Outside the reef, the current pulled the swimmer south east direction. He waived and shouted for help to a fisherman whom he spotted on the cliff line of Agingan Point.

At 10:53am the fisherman flagged down a police unit at the Agingan Point cliff line to inform about the stranded swimmer.

A police officer observed the stranded swimmer outside the reef and contacted the DPS Boating Safety Unit.

Boating Safety officers launched a rescue boat. While Senga was floating and waiting in the water for the rescue, he spotted a passing dive boat and started waving and shouting for help.

The dive boat pulled up next to Senga and its crews picked him up. Boating Safety's rescue boat later intercepted the dive boat. The officers took Senga into the rescue boat and transported him safely to Smiling Cove Marina where they conducted their investigation.

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# Retirees Association wants to intervene in Fund's suit vs gov't

## ■ Petitioner says retirees have not been informed of any progress on 'five-point solutions'

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Retirees Association has asked Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo to allow it to intervene into the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

CRA, through its secretary Oscar C. Camacho, requested Govendo to give them meaningful opportunity for input, review, access, and or comment on any proposed solutions in the lawsuit as they have an interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

CRA, a non-profit corporation, is composed of members of the Defined Benefit Plan of the Fund. It's chairman is Juan M. Sablan.

Petitioner CRA moved the court, in the event it ruled favorably to the board, to set a status conference for the purpose of setting any proposed guideline for CRA's participation in the eventual resolution of this dispute.

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and then Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's failure to remit required payments.

In November 2008, Govendo granted the Fund's request for default judgment after the government, through the Attorney General's Office, waited nearly two years to answer the complaint.

Govendo then conducted hearings to determine the remaining issue in the case—the amount of damages owed the government to the Fund.

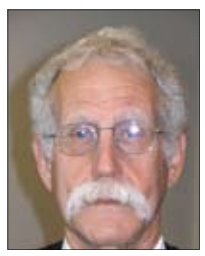
On June 29, 2009, Govendo issued a decision that finds the CNMI government owes $231.6 million in damages to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Govendo said by clear and convincing evidence, the Fund has proven damages in the amount of $231,647,938.27 and that judgment is so entered.

In the same ruling, the judge found as unconstitutional Public Law 15-15, a law sought to alleviate the financial strain by suspending payment of all government obligations to the Fund for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

Govendo said P.L. 15-15 unlawfully diminished and impaired the accrued benefits of the Fund which was established pursuant to Article III, Section 20(a) of the CNMI Constitution.

P.L. 15-15, he pointed out, is also unconstitutional because it violates the contracts clause of both the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.


Govendo

On how the judgment is to be paid, Govendo ordered the Finance Secretary to pay to the Fund an employer contribution rate of 16 percent beginning with the pay period ending Aug. 14, 2009.

Govendo directed the Finance Secretary to pay the Fund 30 percent of the hotel occupancy taxes and 20 percent of the alcohol container taxes.

The payment, the judge said, shall commence on Aug. 1, 2009 and shall continue until further order of court.

"The court expects that this decision will only be the starting point for negotiations between the two parties and reserves the right to modify its judgment in response to changing circumstances," he said.

During a review hearing on Nov. 2, 2009, Govendo increased the previously awarded damages to $282,359,553.56 through Sept. 30, 2009.

In CRA's petition for intervention, Camacho said that, at the Jan. 25, 2010 review hearing, the Fund and defendants discussed in open court, a "five-point solution," in an attempt to seek a resolution of the underlying amount in controversy, and had scheduled another review hearing in the future.

Camacho said up to this date, CRA has not been fully briefed or kept abreast of any progress of the "five-point solutions."

"Petitioner, as do the other members of CRA, have a vested interest in the resolution of this dispute, and in the proper collection of any judgments issued, and or any 'five-point solutions' thereto," Camacho said.

# 5 aliens who allegedly tried to enter Guam plead not guilty

Five Chinese nationals who were arrested on Rota last Jan. 30 for allegedly attempting to unlawfully enter Guam by boarding two inflatable boats have entered a not guilty plea in federal court.

Zhanshan Zhang, Pingping Zhang, Jingfan Zhang, Lihua Yi, and Shixu Huang appeared with their respective court-appointed lawyers during Tuesday afternoon's arraignment in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman accepted the defendants' not guilty plea to the charges of attempted improper entry by an alien.

The judge set the jury trial for April 12, 2010 at 9am. He remanded the defendants to the custody of the U.S. Marshals.

The judge set the bail modification hearing for yesterday afternoon.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his report that over the past week he has been the lead agent in charge of an undercover investigation into alien smuggling from Rota to Guam by boat.

Harahap said that last Jan. 26, he received information from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General that two Chinese nationals were boarding a Freedom Air flight to Rota with two inflatable boats and two outboard engines.

The agent said he was able to verify from Freedom Air that Huang and Jingfan Zhang were boarding Freedom Air 200 from Saipan to Rota.

On Jan. 28, Zhanshan Zhang joined Huang and Jingfan Zhang on Rota. The following day, Pingping Zhang and Lihua Yi flew from Saipan to Rota.

The agent said that, on Jan. 30 at 4am. All five defendants boarded the two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks on Rota.

Harahap said law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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# Crime Stoppers seeks assistance to prevent crime in Winter Games

Crime Stoppers International is seeking assistance from the public in reporting criminal information that may negatively impact the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver, Canada, in February and March of 2010. Criminal information received will be relayed to Canadian Crime Stoppers, to complement the security effort for the Games.

Crime Stoppers International is an umbrella organization operated by a volunteer board of directors from Crime Stoppers programs worldwide to establish guidelines to assure consistency. There are over 1200 Crime Stoppers programs operating throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Central America, Mexico and many Caribbean and Pacific nations.

Arenovski

"We are asking the help from the public in reporting criminal information deemed relevant to the smooth and safe running of the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games," said Crime Stoppers International Western Pacific Regional Director Jim Arenovski.

"Crime Stoppers International is a global partner in the fight against crime and terrorism. With our world-wide grass roots intelligence base, we are at the forefront with anonymous information that assists law enforcement across the globe," said Gary Murphy, president of Crime Stoppers International.

To report any criminal activity that could potentially impact the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, please call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) in North America or 670-234-7272 (PARA) for the NMI or 671-477-HELP for callers on Guam. You can also report a tip through the website: www.nmicrimestoppers.com. ***(PR)***

## CNMI

*From Page 1*

a $2-billion project (which is $22 billion in current value) conducted during World War II to develop the first atomic bomb. The project employed over 130,000 people from 1942 to 1946.

Fitial and Dela Cruz's Feb. 9 letter to Salazar is in line with the U.S. Navy's draft environmental impact statement on its proposed use of Department of Defense lands on Tinian for U.S. Marine Corps training exercises.

Under the draft programmatic agreement, the recovery of archaeological materials collected during the course of the undertakings from leased land on Tinian will be transferred to the CNMI museum for curation, while display quality artifact will remain on Tinian for tourism displays and education purposes.

Because there is no museum on Tinian, the draft EIS states that the CNMI could request for federal assistance for the development of a small museum dedicated to Tinian's history.

"We are asking you now to help us pursue a National Park Service visitor's center that will house Tinian's artifacts," Fitial and Dela Cruz said in the letter they signed in front of Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho on Tuesday on Capital Hill.

The local officials said besides needing a proper place to display Tinian's ancient cultural heritage, the CNMI also needs a museum that will adequately depict Tinian's role in World War II.

In their letter to the Interior secretary, Fitial and Dela Cruz said Tinian's North Field was once proposed to be a national park. However, the military land lease precluded it. Nevertheless, North Field was identified as a national historic landmark.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), in a phone interview yesterday, said the governor and the mayor's joint letter is a "step in the right direction."

Hofschneider, who is the current chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, also pushed for the designation of the North Field as a national park in a letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) last year.

North Field was the largest operational base in World War II. Invasion Beach is also reserved from training exercises because it was the site of "the perfect amphibious operation of the Pacific War."

"And of course, the operations of the 509th Composite Bombardment Group at North Field climaxed the effort by the Manhattan Project to end the war without an invasion of Japan," Fitial and Dela Cruz said in their letter, a copy of which was also sent to Sablan.

The Atomic Bomb pits at North Field are also Tinian's number one tourist attraction.

"A National Park Service visitor's center should be established on Tinian, so that ever Marine and every visitor to Tinian can become aware of the role Tinian played in World War II," the officials said.

The governor and the Tinian mayor also said that the American Memorial Park on Saipan was established as a direct a result of the Covenant negotiations, which resulted from the Tinian agreement to have two-thirds of the island leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

They also cited the establishment of the War in the Pacific Park in Guam, to educate the general public about the role of Guam in World War II.

"It is time such a national park is established on Tinian," Fitial and Dela Cruz said.

They also noted the creation of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park system, adding that this project may provide an appropriate venue for Tinian's park.

"Then, when larger military exercises are conducted and North Field is closed, visitors to Tinian will be able to see a mock-up of the bomb pits, with replicas of the atomic bombs similar to those on display at the Bradbury Museum in Los Alamos, New Mexico," Fitial and Dela Cruz said.

The U.S. Navy retains exclusive use, control, and possession of lands encompassing Tinian's national historic landmark based on a 50-year lease agreement with the CNMI, the landowner.

The massive military buildup on Guam will also spill over to Tinian. Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines and so the military looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability.

Under the draft EIS for the buildup, the proposed actions on Tinian include firing ranges for rifle known distance, automated combat pistol, platoon battle course, and field firing; and airspace use. Comments on the draft EIS are due on Feb. 17, 2010.

## FUND

*From Page 1*

the agency's good management of its investments.

"As of FY 2010, we're up about 20 percent in the first four months of the fiscal year…so it really goes to show how the Fund is maintaining proper asset allocation," he said.

Aguon said the new positive direction is also a result of being modernly aggressive in its investments.

He revealed that FY 2008 was considered the worst year on record for the market and like other retirement and pension plans, the Fund losses considerable amount.

Aguon said the Fund's market investment went down by about 14 percent in FY 2008.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, the losses went down to 13 percent but was regained in the following months.

"By the end of FY 2009, we managed to recover all the losses and actually came out with less than 1 percent growth in that fiscal year," Aguon said, adding that they projected a good investment year until the rest of the current fiscal year.

He assured Rotary Club members that although overall market performance went down globally, the Fund managed to maintain its assets.

The big investment loss incurred in 2008 was not the first time for the agency, according to Aguon.

In 2001, the Fund experienced about 20-percent drop in investment assets and 10 percent during the Asian crisis in 1990s.

"We encountered similar downtrend in our history…this is not new. But the key here is we have a long-term perspective [for the investment fund]," he said, adding that to be fully funded until 2045 the Fund needs about $860 million in investment fund.

At present, total investment fund is at $330 million—which is about 40 percent of the needed $860 million fund.

"Our portfolios are designed to weather periodic downturns and there is no investment that will not experience a downturn," Aguon said.

Among its international market investments, the administrator revealed that China is one of the top performers.

The Fund's international money managers had placed 10 percent of the Fund's assets to international investments in China, Australia, and Europe.

"We do offer allocation for those [markets]…but although the assets are appreciating faster than our holdings in the U.S., it will not be safe to put out all our eggs in one basket. We need to diversify our portfolio in order to minimize impact of any downturn of any market," Aguon admitted.

To better maintain its investments, Aguon said an assets liability study is being finalized to show the Fund's projected actuarial liability versus actual portfolio and a projection of the Fund's assets through 2028.

The same study will also dictate the board if there's a need to cut or add on the number of its existing money managers. The Fund presently has a total of 11 money managers.

The Retirement Fund has the following asset allocations: common stocks account for 65 percent; fixed income, 27 percent; hedge fund, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

## RELOCATION

*From Page 1*

Shimoji, Abe, and Hattori are part of the 23-member Japanese government delegation arriving on Guam for what Fitial described as a "fact-finding" visit, particularly to see if there's suitable place on Guam for more U.S. troops to be relocated off Okinawa.

This is in addition to the estimated 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 dependents who are expected to be relocated by 2014, although Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho asked for the military buildup to be delayed until after 2014.

Fitial and other CNMI officials were one in saying they welcome the relocation of U.S. troops to the Commonwealth provided the U.S. government consents to such move.

"We're not offering them anything. We're just telling them we welcome them, provided that the U.S. government consents or concurs," the governor said.

Manglona and Fitial clarified that there is no definite plan to move U.S. troops to the CNMI, but it's one of the options being looked at.

"Shimoji said they will recommend moving troops to the CNMI. He gave the range. It could be 2,000 or 3,000 or 4,000," he said.

### Guam trip

Fitial will travel to Guam to attend today's meeting between Guam officials and the visiting Japanese delegation led by Yorihisa Matsuno, deputy chief Cabinet secretary of the Japan Diet.

The three Japanese lawmakers who made a stopover on Saipan were major players in the relocation talks. Shimoji is the policy chief of the People's New Party, one of the tripartite ruling coalitions in Japan, while Abe is the policy chief of the Social Democratic Party. Hattori is also with the Social Democratic Party.

"They're looking at all options, including Guam and the CNMI… I will be listening to what Guam has to say. As I said, I welcome them provided that the U.S. government concurs," Fitial said.

Manglona said Tinian has been waiting for decades to welcome military presence on the island.

"It seems they have been listening to the people, as they prepare to meet with the U.S. government. We made it clear to the Japanese lawmakers that the CNMI is open, but we defer making decisions to the U.S. government," Manglona said.

Fitial said as with all other existing relocation plans, any cost to move troops to the CNMI should not be borne by the CNMI.

Both the CNMI and Guam governors had said that socio-economic impacts are the major concerns when it comes to the massive military buildup on Guam, and Fitial said this is also true with any plan to relocate U.S. troops to the CNMI.

Fitial said Japanese lawmakers wanted to visit the CNMI again to see for themselves any room for U.S. troops to be relocated.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Tinian welcomes any plan to relocate U.S. troops to the island, two-thirds of which is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

"The lease makes it easier for them to come here… We certainly welcome the plan or the option of choosing the CNMI as a site for relocating U.S. troops from Japan," said Hofschneider, who is the chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz earlier said that an expected decrease in civilian tourist arrivals to the island as a result of he massive buildup should be mitigated by an increase in military personnel and their families' visit to Tinian for rest and recreation.

Dela Cruz also said the military should ensure an effective quarantine system to prevent brown tree snakes, rhinoceros beetles, and other invasive species from entering Tinian.

### 'Stretch out and spread out'

Sen. Judith Guthertz of Guam, in a Jan. 28 letter to Joint Guam Program Office executive director David Bice, recommended stretching out and spreading out the relocation of U.S. troops from Okinawa to Guam.

She said the U.S. military should consider relocating the First Marine Aircraft Wing aviation command from Futenma to Tinian and Agrigan or the Goat Island in the CNMI.

"This command numbers about 4,000. The mayor of Tinian and Agrigan has already asked the U.S. military to consider these islands for the buildup. Agrigan is uninhabited and the federal government already has a long-term lease for the northern two-thirds of Tinian," she told Bice.

Guthertz, who chairs the Committee on the Guam Military Buildup and Homeland Security, said the Marines' movement should be spread over eight years instead of only two years from 2014.

Lastly, she suggested the reduction in size of the movement to Guam by 50 percent—for about 4,000 active duty Marines.

"This would still provide a greater than 100 percent jump in footprint, but provide a greater welcome mat for our Marines," she told Bice.

The Futenma issue has become a sticking point in the military realignment talks.

The recent election of an anti-base mayor in Nago made it more difficult to move Marine air operations and led to a growing sentiment among Okinawans to move Futenma operations outside Okinawa and outside Japan.

# OPA urged to probe newly renovated NI mayor's office, Rebuenog

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Mike Pai is being urged to conduct an investigation on the newly renovated Northern Islands mayor's office in Capital Hill, which is now located at the former Office of the Washington Representative.

A letter from a concerned citizen was sent to Pai yesterday, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

The probe is requested to focus on Ramona Rebuenog, who was initially declared mayor of the islands, and believed occupied the position even after the issuance of the court order stating that the office is vacant.

Pai

"Even with this ruling from the Supreme Court, Mrs. Rebuenog has yet to vacate this office on Capitol Hill. I believe that because the Supreme Court overturned the ruling on Feb. 1, that office should be left unoccupied," the concerned citizen cited in his letter.

The letter added that on Feb. 5, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a proclamation that also stated that the office should be unoccupied until a mayor is officially elected.

Therefore, the complainant is convinced that Rebuenog should have no access to this office during this time when no one is officially proclaimed mayor for the Northern Islands.

It can be recalled that Rebuenog sued the Commonwealth Election Commission, along with winning mayoral candidate Tobias Aldan, and requested the trial court to award her the mayoralty seat of the Northern Islands.

When the case was presented to the trial court, Rebuenog was awarded the position.

Aldan, however, appealed to the Supreme Court which overturned the trial court ruling and ordered the election commission to conduct a new mayoralty race for the island.

Fitial, by virtue of a proclamation signed Friday, set the special election on March 27.

The election commission approved Tuesday the designation of its office customer service area as the official polling place for the election and waived the $250 filing fee for the two former candidates for the position.

Based on the CEC record, a total of 131 are expected to participate in the special poll. The number slightly dropped after 18 were disqualified by the court. Last general election, CEC posted 149 total registered voters in Northern Islands.

Pai was off-island when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. He is expected to be back next week.

According to OPA audit manager Ross Zapanta, the office is entertaining tips and complaint letters from anonymous senders and even encouraged the public to call their hotline or post at the agency's website for important tips.

Zapanta admitted that he has yet to see the particular letter yesterday and expecting the letter to be checked by Pai next week.

However he confirmed that if there are merits in the complaint, OPA will pursue the matter and will refer the case to the agency's investigation unit.

**DEAN'S LISTER**
Alessandra M. King has recently been named to the Fayetteville State University Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester. King's parents are Alexander and Lilia King of Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**H1N1 OUTREACH**
Department of Public Health partnered with Trench Tech Gym, led by owner and president Cuki Alvarez, to promote H1N1 vaccinations to the student of Chacha Middle School yesterday. DPH will be raffling out 10 "Rites of Passage 8" event tickets to middle and high school students who turn in their consent forms back to school this week. Raffle will only be for schools who participated in the H1N1 outreach activity.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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# PSS brings in experts
## for employees' state professional devt
### Over 500 elementary school teachers attend first session day

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team of experts from the U.S. are on island for a three-day state professional development workshops for all employees of the CNMI Public School System.

McREL, a private and nonprofit corporation dedicated to making a difference in public education, has eight representatives here conducting training sessions mostly focused on content areas.

They included senior directors for field services Greg Cameron and Danette Parsley; lead consultant Elizabeth Hubbell; and principal consultants Cynthia Bjork, Samme Wheeler-Clouse, Kathleen Dempsey, Cherie Lyons, and Mel Sussman.

McREL draws upon the best of education research to translate what works into innovations and results.

Yesterday over 500 PSS employees attended the first training session specifically set for all elementary school teachers and support staff held in Garapan Elementary School.

Sessions for school administrators, leadership team, program managers, and the commissioner of education was conducted at Tanapag Head Start Center where discussions centered on balanced leadership and power walkthrough.

PSS shut down all elementary school classes yesterday to give way for the statewide professional development trainings which aims to provide educators and employees new ideas, knowledge, and strategies to better serve the students.

Today, sessions are intended for teachers at the middle schools to be held at Hopwood Junior High School. About 100 are expected to attend all discussions to be presented by the visiting experts.

The last day of the session on Friday will cater to secondary school level teachers and employees which will be held at Saipan Southern High School. Over 200 attendees are expected to the event.

Classes are suspended today at all middle schools while classes in high schools will shut down on Friday.

According to PSS Human Resource Office, the system has about a thousand employees of which over 500 are classroom teachers. To date, 71 percent of them are highly qualified while the rest are yet to comply with all the requirements.

Public school teachers have to meet 60 hours of professional development each year while school administrators need to maintain 120 hours per year.

PSS coordinates two statewide professional development days to afford an opportunity to network and collaborate with other colleagues from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian including private schools.

The three-day sessions are tailored to meet the following goals: improve all student learning, improve teacher effectives, set high standards for teachers, promote continuous staff learning, enhance staff intellectual and leadership capacity, and support staff development providers.

Among the sessions conducted yesterday included phonological awareness deficits which are a major reason why young children struggle to learn to read; overview of the Scaffolding Early Learning program which directly targets critical domains for early literacy and academic development, social-emotional development and other critical skills that support learning; formative assessment; grade quick; writing in the content areas; mathematics discourse and problem solving; and reading and literacy for elementary.

# OAG files more charges vs man for sexual abuse of two minors

The Office of the Attorney General has filed additional charges against a 55-year-old man accused of sexually abusing two minor girls.

In an amended information, the OAG charged Robert K. Shieneachi with two counts of incest in addition to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

During a recent preliminary hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos ordered Shieneachi to answer two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

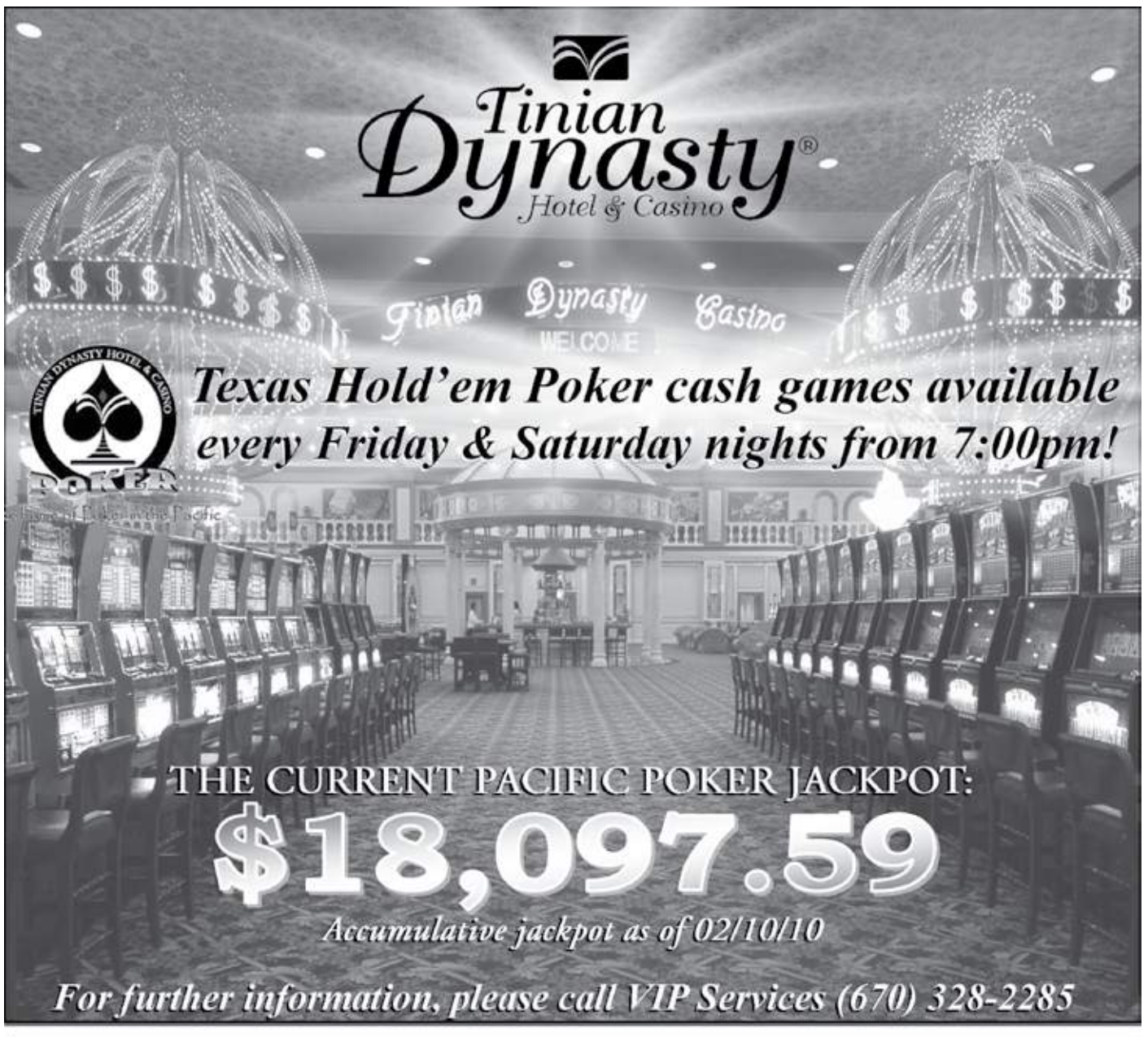
Assistant Attorney General George Hasselback stated in the first amended information that the defendant sexually abused a minor beginning in 2001.

The defendant also allegedly sexually abused another girl in 2008.

Meanwhile, the OAG has filed charges against a 29-year-old man who assaulted a woman and a minor girl on Sept. 30, 2009.

The OAG charged Christino Selkor with child abuse and two counts of assault and battery.

Selkor was summoned to appear at the Saipan Superior Court to answer the charges on Feb. 22 at 9am. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-CHC-054**

**SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 25, 2010 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.**

**"LEASE OF OUTPATIENT CLINIC FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. PETE T. UNTALAN, MHA ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION** BY FAX TO: (670) 234-8930 OR E-MAILED TO health1@pticom.com NO LATER THAN **FEBRUARY 16, 2010 CLOSE TO BUSINESS.**

**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public and all Garapan Street Market vendors that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs - Garapan Street Market will be closed on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

The purpose of closing on the stated date is to have all vendors update required permits and documents in compliance with conducting business at the Garapan Street Market site.

Garapan Street Market will resume on February 18, 2010 for vendors that have met the deadline for submission of requirements.

Should you need more information, please call us at 664-2574 or 664-2576.

Thank you.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao

# 23 companies, 70 students to join MHS career fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 20 local companies will take center stage today at the Saipan World Resort after confirming their participation in the Public School System High School Cooperative Education & Training Career Fair.

Approximately 70 students are expected to participate in the career fair.

Marianas High School teacher and coordinator Tyce Mister received the confirmation from Tan Holdings, Pacific Islands Club, Sorensen Media Group Saipan, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and Marianas Visitors Authority.

Also agreeing to participate in the one-day affair are IT&E, DOL Employment Services, Office of Adult Probation, CNMI Superior Court, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Public School System-HRO, Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, Family Court Division, CNMI Superior Court; Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; NMC-Career Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Herman's Bakery, Youth Development Program, Division of Youth Services, Triple J Saipan, and World Resort.

The event, which intends to expose high school students to different career options available to them in the CNMI, will be held at World Resort's Taga Hall from 1:30pm to 3pm today.

According to Mister, the fair would be an opportunity for both employers and students to meet each other and possibly set up an arrangement for cooperative training. The program started in 1971 and has produced several graduates.

At the career fair, students from MHS, Kagman High School, and transition program from special education will be encouraged to ask questions such as the company's profile, products and services, as well as possible careers in the company's industry.

Mister said the cooperative programs, sometimes referred to as "co-op," is designed to help prepare students for the job market. The program consists of both Cooperative Education on campus and cooperative training off campus.

Cooperative education students participate in completing resumes, applications, interviews, personal development, and other projects. In cooperative training, students gain work experience by participating as a "trainee" at an off-campus business organization.

The training hours, according to Mister, are generally held during the afternoon school hours.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SUSAN'S FRIENDS**
Seisuke and Chisato Tanaka, visiting friends from Japan of Susan Gaspar, visit Saipan every year. Gaspar wishes the couple *bon voyage* when they return to Japan tomorrow, Feb. 12.

# Brabu featured in *Computer Talk Magazine*

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center is featured in this month's *Computer Talk Magazine*.

Brabu Pharmacy was featured for its state-of-the-art pharmacy computer system, which allows for electronic data storage and for the pharmacy to be a paperless operation.

Going paperless adheres to the hopes of its owners to lessen Brabu Pharmacy's contribution to Saipan's landfill.

"This is my home. I want to take care of it, and the people who live here," said co-owner Ted Parker.

The software system also stores a scanned copy of all prescriptions and displays an image of the medication to be dispensed.

"The software is also very fast. After we register a patient, prescriptions and refills take minutes, with short waiting times. This virtually eliminates filling errors, no matter how busy we get, and things are looking like they are going to get very busy", said Parker.

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center is open Monday through Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. Stop by and visit, call 233-AMOT (2668), or email braburx@gmail.com for more information about Brabu and their commitment to the community's total wellbeing. ***(PR)***

# Empty Vessel women's support group calls meeting

The Empty Vessel women's group will have its monthly meeting on Feb. 27, 2010, from 9am to 11am, at Ladera International School of Saipan. This meeting will feature a financial expert, Fred Camacho, Bank Pacific branch manager, as guest speaker.

Camacho will speak about financial matters that include: saving for the future, micro-loans to support low-or no-income women, and micro-loans for women who desire to start a small business and/or expand a struggling business. Empty Vessel believes in empowering women because if women are empowered they in turn are able to take care of themselves and hold families together.

The Empty Vessel, a non-profit all-women support group, exists to educate and motivate women to share their faith and resources and to bring tangible evidence of love and care at empowering impoverished, oppressed, and persecuted women and their families on Saipan and abroad. Our desire is to foster stable and healthy family relationships.

The Empty Vessel is a dedicated humanitarian organization helping those in need in the community by providing basic needs. Women and children are the primary recipients of support and assistance. The organization educates and empowers women through monthly meeting where speakers talk about issues affecting women and their lives today.

Last month the group participated in the Dr Martin Luther King celebration to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

"We encourage the community to become members. Membership comes with a minimal fee of $5 monthly, which basically goes toward supporting the organization's programs. We look forward to having you to be a part of our growing organization," said the group in a statement. ***(PR)***

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
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**CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Friday, February 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the ARFF Classroom, in the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.**

The following items are on the agenda, for the above-referenced meeting:

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (January 22, 2010)

**II. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**
1. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
2. Personnel Matters
3. Authorization for Bank Signatories
4. Supplemental Budget Request
5. Resolution for Mr. Fidel A. Mendiola
6. Cancellation of RFP for Tinian Harbor repairs

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

**/s/ (for) Thomas P. Villagomez** **Feb. 10, 2010**

**JOSE R. LIFOIFOI**
**Chairman, Board of Directors**

Celebrate
Valentine's Day with us
Sunday, February 14, 2010, 6:30 pm ~ 9:30 pm
The Buffet World
$22.00 - Adult
$11.00 - Child
(6-11 yrs old)
INCLUDES
SPECIAL DINNER BUFFET
BOTTOMLESS DRAFT BEER, RED WINE, WHITE WINE, ASSORTED JUICES, SODA, COFFEE & TEA
EXCLUSIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Performances start at 6:30 pm
WORLD RESORT SAIPAN
THE BUFFET WORLD
For reservations, please call: 670-234-5900 ext. 388

# Tinian Hot Pepper Festival this weekend

Bring your sweetheart—or come with your friends —to the 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13 and 14 at Tachogna Beach on Tinian.

Where else will you find a weekend of food, arts and crafts, and island-style entertainment inspired by "donni sali," Tinian's internationally famous spicy pepper?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held this weekend at Tachogna Beach on Tinian.

There will be many competitions for visitors to enjoy, as participant or cheering for your favorite—the Hot Pepper Eating Contest, Karaoke Singing Contest, Dragon Boat Race, Cha Cha Dance Contest, Hermit Crab Race, and the "Estofao Pika" Cooking Contest.

Another event this year that promises lots of action and fun is the Pika Ball, an all-female softball competition between Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian; the game is organized by the Tinian Athletic Sports Association.

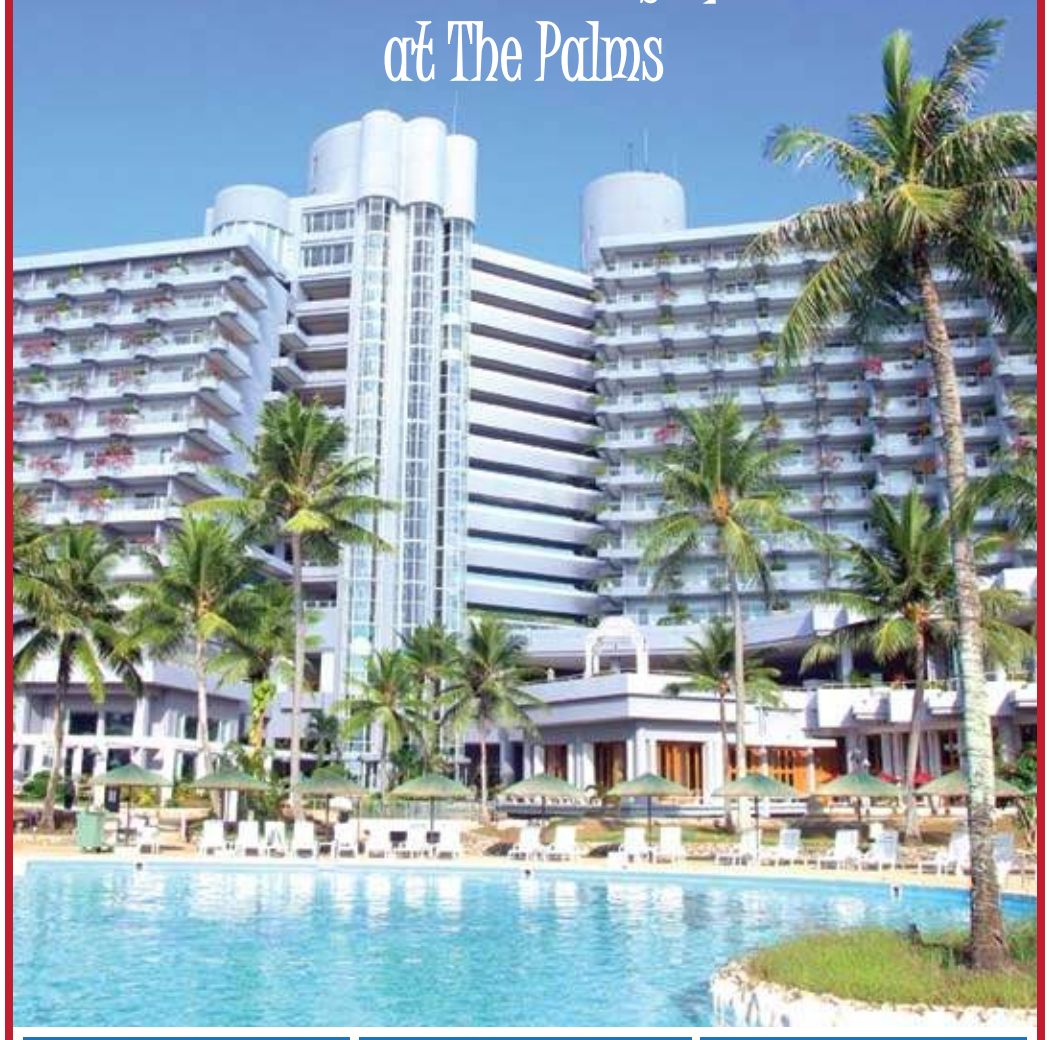
"Like so many other locals and NMI visitors, I am looking forward to this festival," said the Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's always a fun and relaxing time and a great chance to enjoy Tinian, even more so this year with the holiday on Monday."

If you want to get to Tinian via ferry from Saipan, the ferry will leave on Friday at 5pm. and on Sunday at 9:30am and 5pm. Ferries return from Tinian to Saipan on Sunday at 8am and 1pm and on Monday at 8am, 1pm, and 11:30pm. Inquires on special charter times on Friday and Saturday may be directed to Tinian Shipping and Transportation or Tinian Dynasty and Casino.

For more information about the festival, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1(670) 433-9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***


The Palms on PauPau Beach

2nd Year Anniversary Specials at The Palms



Food & Beverage Promotion

Enjoy a variety of dinner selections at Minami or Kaenju restaurant and receive ONE GLASS OF CHAMPANGE

valid until 2/28/2010
other conditions may apply

Stay the Ultimate Dream Night Promotion

Stay the night during the month of February 2010 and receive a bottle of champange & chocolate upon arrival

$98.00 for 2
inclusive of breakfast for 2
(plus 10% tax)

valid until 2/28/2010
subject to availability
other conditions may appy.

POOL BASH
Sat. 2/27/2010
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

Free Pool (no entrance fee)
Food & Drinks
Live Entertainment
Pool/Beach Activities
Food Eating Contest
Raffle Giveaways
plus much more!!!

For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.


## *Recipe for Kadun Pika*

**(pronounced ka-doon pe-ka)**

Not sure what to do with the hot red peppers you're going to bring home from the vendor booths? Here's an authentic local dish that will wake up your taste buds.

### Ingredients

5-lb. stewing chicken (any chicken is good but stewing is preferred)
1/2 cup of white vinegar
3/4 cup of Kikkoman Soy Sauce
1/2 teaspoon of black pepper
Dash of Accent (optional)
1 whole garlic (chopped)
1 whole onion (chopped)
20 ripe, hot, red peppers

### Cooking instructions

Cut chicken into small pieces. Marinate chicken with vinegar, soy sauce, black pepper and accent for about 30 minutes. Then sauté onions, garlic, and hot peppers with the marinated chicken, reserving the marinade. Cook chicken on medium heat until all the water of the chicken has been absorbed then add the marinade. When the marinade has dried, it's ready! ***(PR)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Feb. 11, 1999

**Committee tackles funding for water desalination plant**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has formed a special committee to tackle the proposed water desalination plant on Saipan in an effort to seek possible solution to the financial setback that has dogged the critical project in the last two years. Former CUC board chairman Benjamin A. Sablan heads the group which also includes two other Saipan representatives to the utility board Rosario M. Elameto and Jesus T. Guerrero. "I am busy running my company, but this one job I want, one job I am honored to accept," Sablan said in a statement after being appointed by CUC Chairman John S. Dela Cruz. The panel is expected to review materials and documents as well as comments from residents who have voiced out their opinions on the costly project during two previous public hearings.

**Tenorio backs CPA pay cut, rules out bailout**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the Commonwealth Ports Authority would have to solve its own financial troubles because the CNMI government and the Legislature will not be able to bail out the cash-strapped agency. According to Tenorio, he will support the planned 15 reduction in salaries of CPA employees for one or two years if it is the only way the ports authority can survive and avoid the massive retrenchment in the agency. The CNMI government has been having difficulty raising $5 million to $6 million to pay for salaries of more than 4,000 employees under government payroll.

### Feb. 11, 2000

**Teno okays taxbreaks for banks**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law a measure exempting banks and other financial institutions from paying gross revenue tax for interest gained from loans extended to the government, as well as giving tax rebate for such income. But the governor at the same time vetoed four other bills, including a proposal seeking to suspend collection of excise taxes for telecommunications equipment imported into Rota that officials said would allow establishment of cellular phone service on the island. House Bill 11-513, a component of a recently-signed law appropriating the $30 million loan secured from Bank of Guam, was signed into Public Law 11-121, according to a new release from the Governor's Office.

**Changing criminal justice system**

Although the Department of Public Safety would not publicly admit it, elected leaders in the Commonwealth have expressed concern on what they described as the worsening crime situation in the CNMI. Their concerns were validated when a study conducted by a consulting firm hired by the Prison Task Force called for an overhaul of the criminal justice system to prevent further the surge in crimes. Aside from the police, the court and other concerned government agencies, such overwhelming task must be carried out partly by the Attorney General's Office specifically the Criminal Division.

### Feb. 11, 2002

**Plans to hold US-CPA exam in NMI revived**

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente on Friday expressed support and urged the revival of efforts to have the US Certified Public Accountant board examinations conducted here in the CNMI. In a speech before the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Benavente said that now would be a good time for the 13th Legislature to reconsider the passage of an accountancy act, so the US-CPA board examination could also be offered here in the Commonwealth. The US-CPA board examination is conducted in all US states and territories except in the CNMI. "When I was still the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House passed a proposed Accountancy Act but, unfortunately, it did not make it through. Now would be a good time to revisit this so that the CNMI can also conduct and certify US-CPA board examinations here," he said.

A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

# Boy scouts explore Anatahan Island

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the* Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

The morning is sweet, the sun has not come up yet, the ocean is kind the weather is nice and the land is bountiful. The two wildlife and forestry personnel carry a conversation about camping. I've known both of them since we were small, since little kids. Ben is my first cousin who lived and continues to live in Tanapag. Stan is a distant cousin but lived in Chalan Kanoa where we lived as neighbors when we were young. He would come to the house and tell stories of *lomotolong* a "Pohnpeian Ghost Mistress of the Night." I reminded him of his stories last night and yes he remembered telling us. "Sweet memories of childhood-fun and exciting." The adventure, this TAGA adventure is also for the boys in us adults, real in the sense that it is shared with the younger ones. Morning is sweet. The ocean is sweet. The birds chirping and singing are sweet; the dew on the grass is sweet.

The sun is about 45 degrees above and starting to penetrate our skin. Class is about to start and the flies never quit the feast. Mr. Stan V. tried several shots at several goats and failed to win a game. Mr. P. Guerrero shot two and won two. Ansen, Jun, and Ton went down the ravine and came back with game. Breakfast was being cooked and Justice V. demonstrated and instructed the boys the art of Tai Chi. Last night he did Kung Fu exercises and Jonathan thought they were "move". Tai Chi moving meditation like "OHM…" remarked Jonathan.

Class starts: Goats are hung up with upper body up and hinds below. Boys are gathered; boy neighed, talked goat talk "Oh you're a mean goat." Justice V. orders boys to start, and Rene says "Well we're going to learn by watching." Denis starts on the black goat, Ansen on the white male goat; and Jun on the brown teenage goat. Mr. Ben Camacho and Stan V. instructs- "One should make sure to shoo the flies away so they won't lay a lot of eggs." Skinning starts around the neck and around the ankles or knees; making a "T" between the two front legs; Justice V. shows inserting knife inside skin and cutting it out. Abraham sits on the branch of a lean tree. Rene takes turn skinning and Mr. Reyes takes pictures. Solomon, quiet but attentive contemplates on the site of skinned goats. Mr. Ben cuts, Mr. Stan shews flies, and Justice V. cuts along. As soon as the skinning with knife reaches the shoulders, the boys are instructed to pull the skin off the body. The tail portion cut and Anthony and Jun pulls skin off the legs. Ansen, Jonathan, and Rene are still far from the shoulders; Mr. Stan comments the other boys are doing a different technic, the cow technic, rather than pulling, the cut. Mr. Cal Reyes asked if the goat is to be "bubuk?" Stan asked, "Hafa bubuk?" to cut open the stomach to get the intestine out.

Justice V. and Jonathan and Ansen are just about done. Mr. Ben and Rene, Dennis, and Sepio are just getting to the shoulder. Tony and June completed the stripping of a young goat's coat or hide or skin. I don't work, I don't sweat, I don't talk, I only look and write and stay clean- it's not fair. Justice V. had earlier stated that he could hear my prayers. Yes, maybe my writing is a form of prayer. I hope it is and I should give thanks for this bounty, for this kindness, and…

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
File photo shows NMI Boy Scouts and their Scout Master during an activity.

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

## DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program**

The Zoning Office has extended the deadline to receive Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

**Format of submission**

- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

**Where and when to submit and questions**
Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, February 19th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 35

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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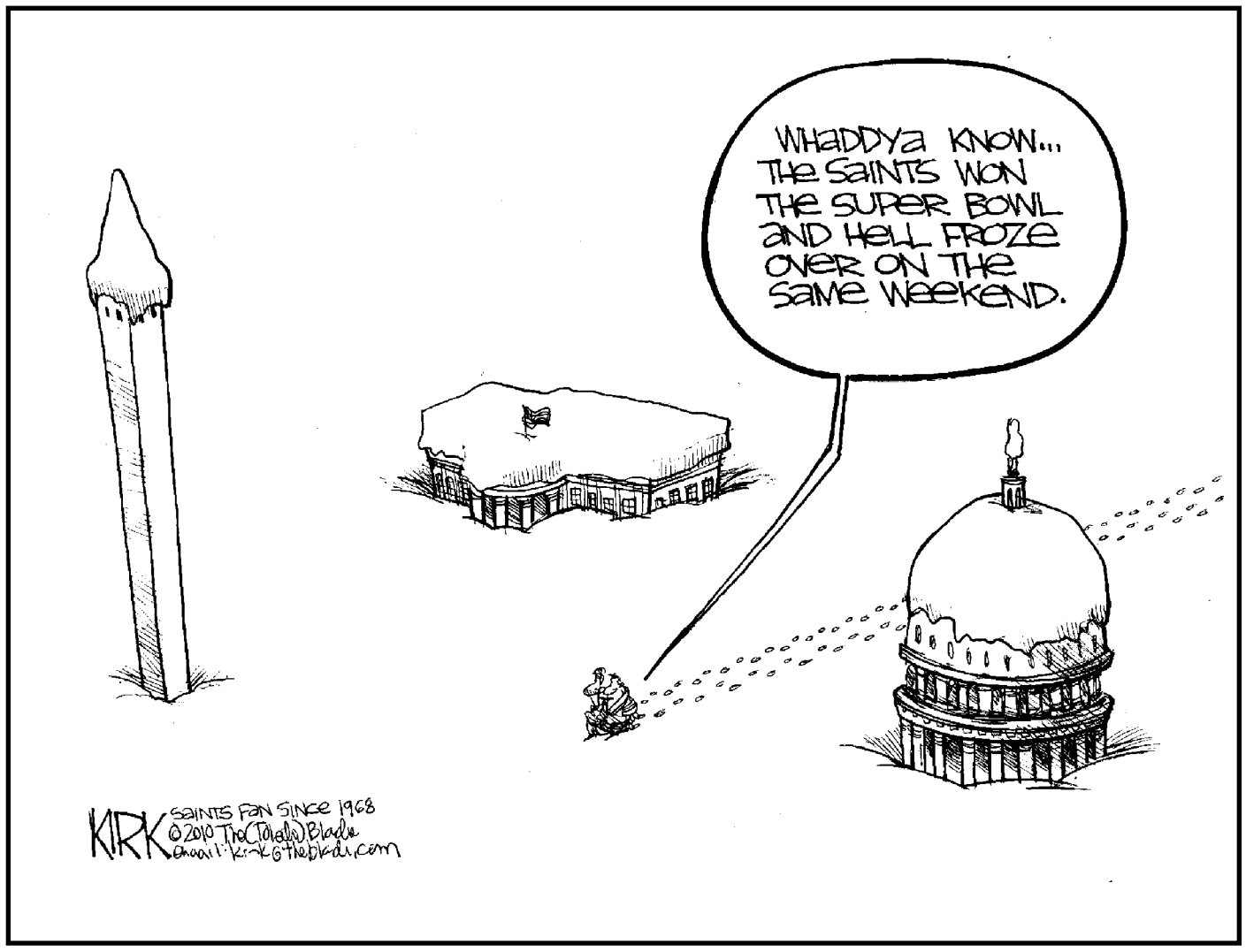
**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


WHADDYA KNOW... THE SAINTS WON THE SUPER BOWL AND HELL FROZE OVER ON THE SAME WEEKEND.
KIRK
SAINTS FAN SINCE 1968
©2010 The (Toledo) Blade
email: kirk@theblade.com

## EDITORIAL

## D.C.'s Winter Olympics: We can do much better than Vancouver

A few years back, Washington and Baltimore mounted a bid to host the Olympics and struck out big-time. Now we know what the problem was: They were bidding for the Summer Games. With Vancouver struggling to truck in enough snow for the Winter Games, set to begin on Friday, there's an obvious solution. Move the Games here.

A few adjustments would have to be made. We have plenty of snow, it's true, but no Rockies, so some new Olympic events would have to be introduced. Here are a few.

- The shoveling biathlon. A test of strength and agility in which contestants must remove 2 feet of snow from a driveway, then stand on the resulting piles and remove 2 feet of snow from atop a vehicle.
- The minivan push. Athletes must push a 2-ton Chrysler up an incline while an inexperienced driver spins the wheels and engages the wrong gears.
- The slush-and-puddle jump. This event is a variation on the Summer Games' long jump, but with wet feet for those who fall short.
- The blanket pile. Athletes compete in below-freezing conditions to see how many blankets they can balance on themselves without exposing their fingers to the air.
- Greco-Roman snow wrestling. Athletes emerge from their blankets (see above) to seek to push into the snow, face-first, neighbors with generators and Pepco executives who do not answer their phones. This is a fantasy/virtual event only.
- The shoveling triathlon. This event takes place immediately after completion of the shoveling biathlon, with the arrival of another foot of snow.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

THOUGHTS ON DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES

## Starting the long road back to economic recovery

***Fourth in a five-part series***

**By WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.*

Working with private investors is a lot different than working with government but there are similarities when implementing and monitoring a new project. A development or investment goal should be stated for all those associated with the project so there may be no doubt as to what each participant is expected to achieve. If an employee can't "cut the mustard" move them out.

Harsh, but necessary for project success.

Each separate goal must be quantifiable and thus measurable to evaluate success in achievement and must have a time frame for completion as well as a project manager to monitor progress and "crack the whip" to make certain things happen when they're supposed to occur.

In order to achieve the project goal, a series of "action steps" will almost always be required. These may involve the location of a site, scheduling construction, procurement of commodities, etc., all designed to achieve the stated goal or objective. It's a management and control tool and specific responsibility for the appropriate action must be assigned.

If the project involves the location of a foreign investor participant—then a dedicated, highly motivated government employee should be assigned to "hold their hand" all the way through the arduous and time consuming permitting process, solve problems arising from "red tape", provide access to officials and in general run interference for the investor to expedite project implementation when some government requirement or obstinate department holds up progress.

If it has not already occurred, suspend, at least, temporarily, all developer impact fees. At the risk of being labeled an economic heretic, one investment incentive might take the form of a reduction or rebate on the power rate for certain "qualified", non retail, business enterprises. This, of course, would mean that the government would be placed in a position of subsidizing the endeavor until it got off the ground. It's simply a case of accepting a"trade-off" by giving up something to get something in return. I'm well aware of the inconsistency of this idea with the current policy of "full cost recovery." So be it.

It's no secret that more attractions are required for the tourism sector such as: an aquarium; a cultural and performing arts center; an aerial cable tram to the Marpi cliffs or Mt. Tapotchau with a revolving restaurant and gift shops; a glass observation elevator up the face of Suicide Cliff and a sound and light show (ancient Chamorro culture)—an environmental "trade off" will probably be necessary.

Pre-investment analyses such as those mentioned above should be prepared for review by potential investors to stimulate interest in such projects of the type prepared and published by the Department of Commerce a decade or so ago. Of course, the profitability and market potential for each of the above must be thoroughly evaluated for their profit potential by preparing pre investment financial feasibility and market analyses for investor review.

These project profiles are sales tools.

The Commonwealth is a western oriented society situated in the eastern hemisphere and that difference should be promoted in Asian tourist markets.

Enhance the appearance of the over-all tourist plant, establish regulations governing outdoor advertising signs, add a few circulating water fountains in Garapan to continue the beautification progress made so far. Review U. S. laws and regulations as may be related to potential investment in the CNMI.

Undertake a through analysis of suitable industries which could benefit from Headnote 3 (a), and the duty free entry privileges of qualified products into the United States. It is doubtful that anyone on island has ever reviewed the entire list of products for the few that might possibly benefit from an island production location. This effort should be undertaken to determine those selected enterprises that might "fit" into a CNMI location. Of course, not all products on the duty free list are suitable—but some may be. I examined the entire list of more than 2,500 products at one time and there appeared to be several which might benefit from a NMI manufacturing or processing location. Unfortunately, I can't precisely remember the specific items but it's something the FTZ should be aware of. (Lest some misunderstand—I'm not looking for a job).

Confirm that the U.S. Alien Entrepreneur Program now applies in the Commonwealth. This law relates to citizens of other countries seeking permanent resident visas in the United States. These people

***See STARTING on Next Page***

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Jungle driving

**By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.*

I got my driver's license in Idaho when I was 14 years old, after taking an intensive driver's education course offered at the school. I like to tell people that it's because kids from Idaho are much more intelligent and mature than young adults in the rest of the country, but the truth is I lived in a farming community and it allowed the young teens of the farmers to be more helpful on the farm. I worked on my uncle's farm during the summers and it was an incredible rush at 14 to get behind the wheel of a dump truck that carried wheat.

Driver's ed is now required on Saipan, but I haven't seen much difference in the driving patterns. We have a very multicultural mix of people who come here with their driving styles entrenched, but somehow it works and we're able to get to our destinations safely.

For those who have recently moved from the U.S. mainland, it takes a little adjustment to mesh with the traffic. Here are a few pointers to help you get up to speed faster. As a caveat, it's been a long time since I've read a driver's manual, so some of the pointers may be closer to jungle rules versus book rules.

An individual should come to a full stop before turning right on a red light; however, most drivers don't stop at all, but just slow down before making a right turn. However, if a car wants to make a left turn in a double-lane road when there is a lot of traffic, they will come to a complete stop in the left-hand lane until there is an opening. In the mainland, there are usually turning lanes that vehicles can move into so they don't obstruct traffic.

Some drivers will come almost to a complete stop before they make a slow right turn in the right-hand lane. This can be dangerous if someone is following close behind or not paying attention to the car slowing down in front. It's better to slow down and pull over to the side of the road prior to turning so the traffic behind you can drive around you.

Pickups are a common vehicle because of their utilitarian value. They can haul furniture, vegetables, and people. We've seen several picnic tables stacked on top of each other, plus a person perched on top—supposedly to keep it stable. If something is sticking out the back of a vehicle, like wood or pipe, there should be a red flag attached to it so following drivers will know to be cautious.

If a person gets pulled over driving a pickup with a king cab, and the passengers in the rear seat don't have their seatbelts on, the driver will get a ticket. However, there can be a dozen people sitting in the bed of the same pickup, and that's okay. Go figure. I know someone that was given a ticket for having kids in the back of a station wagon with no seatbelts. When she went to contest it in court, the ticket was dismissed. It might have helped that her husband was an attorney.

Dogs can often be seen lying down on the village roads to sleep, and they are very slow to move when you approach. However, as you get closer, they'll eventually get up and move just enough for you to pass by. With our large, out-of-control animal population it's important to be extra cautious to avoid animals that dart into the road.

If a police car or ambulance with a siren approaches, it's customary to pull over to the side of the road as the vehicle approaches from the back or is heading toward you. You'll notice that drivers on Saipan consider moving over as an option because some vehicles will keep going on their merry way.

Don't be alarmed if you're driving along and you see the car door open in the vehicle in front of you and someone leaning over and spitting out something red. They're not bleeding internally, and they're not trying to jump out of the car. It's just someone spitting out beetle juice.

Here's a driving tip you won't learn in driver's ed. If an approaching vehicle flashes their high beams at you a couple of times it means there is a cop around the corner with his radar gun pointed in your direction. This is a common courtesy in the U.S. that is not so common here. Of course, if you're not driving faster than the speed limit, it doesn't matter.

One of the amazing things about Saipan drivers is their ability to adapt to power outages, which means the traffic lights don't work. This would be a traffic nightmare in most places, but drivers here are courteous and wait their turn so that traffic flows in an orderly manner without the Department of Public Safety to direct traffic.

We applaud the citizens of Saipan for their adaption to the multicultural driving procedures and special circumstances that arise on our island. We appreciate all the drivers of Saipan who are courteous in the morning and evening traffic rush. We are thankful that our small island if almost free of "road rage" and that our Department of Public Safety educates the new comers about some of the common practices of driving on our island through the local newspaper. We hope you continue to drive safe. It's not only good for the island, but it's good for your insurance policy rate.

## Letters to the Editor

# Time to move on

The political football attack on our governor is over with. Let me make a clear statement that nobody is perfect and forgive and be forgiven too! The bible said "love your enemy" and since the governor's first term in office, people have tried their best to impeach this governor and now that the governor made one outrageous massage mistake people jump on the story and blow it out of proportion trying to make the governor's reputation look bad.

Is it because he is Carolinian? And some in our community hate to see a Carolinian governor succeed? Don't get me wrong but if you know better this governor has an incredible management experience in business with his lieutenant governor they have the management experience to turn our economy around.

But like it or not people will still complain about this governor because those who are bitter would rather see this governor impeached or petitioned out of office.

Let's get over our negative behavior and move on with a positive attitude and do what's right in our personal lives and stop this nonsense of bickering against our governor.

Like I said, no one is perfect and we learn from our mistake. It's time to move on and let the governor do his job. Stop the madness and do something better in your lives.

**Jack Romolor**
*Portland, Oregon*

# Innocent until proven guilty

Reacting to the massage story when it first broke, many bloggers, apparently hell-bent over Fitial's decisive victory at the polls, have been quick to convict the "Gov" and are set to hang him. In their haste to find him guilty and therefore hangable, they have abandoned all semblance of compassion for another human being. And to make their accusation more palatable than it really is to many, not a few of the bloggers were quick to suggest that some illicit affairs had been carried out in the wee hours of Jan. 8, 2010 rather than a legit massage for a back problem which the governor, his wife, and DOC staff will probably testify was all that happened. Who on Saipan does not know of the governor's back problem, a problem for which he has in fact received several operations to correct.

So show some compassion.

And if the governor is later found to have caused the lady prisoner to be released, either via an order or otherwise, for a Viagra-induced urgency in the wee hours of Jan. 8, 2010, then I say, "Find a tree." Until then, aren't we all innocent until proven guilty?

**Silech Terei**
*Via e-mail*

## STARTING

*From Page 10*

may apply for such status through a program administered by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for those individuals who can qualify by investing at least $1 million in a new or existing business that will employ at least ten people. The requirement is only $500,000 if the business is located in a rural or economically distressed area in the United States mainland or Hawaii. Find out if the NMI is now included in this program. Support a long range, comprehensive master development plan to encompass all facets of economic development as well as the needed physical infrastructure required to support the economy. Tools for implementation are, zoning, building codes and the budget process.

I suggest once again a study to evaluate the use of coal fired steam generators. A strong and powerful supporter of the use of coal is W.Va. Senator, Robert C. Byrd, former Chairman of the Appropriations Committee who might respond to a request for financial assistance to fund such a study. A request not made—is a request unknown. Since the planned relocation of the Marines from Okinawa to Guam is being anticipated now is the time to consider an automobile ferry between islands.

At the end of the Cold War legislation was passed by the United States Congress (Title XI - National Shipbuilding Initiative, Public Law 103-160 - Subtitle D 1993) to assist in retaining the United States ship building capability and the necessary skills for national defense efforts. The law is administered by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation.

This federal program provides for government guarantees to enable ship owners to borrow private sector funds on terms that may not otherwise be available, namely, the program guarantees up to 87.5 percent of a loan at fixed rates with a long term maturity. The guaranty is available to any financial institution regardless of nationality and one does not have to be a United States citizen in order to own and operate a vessel constructed under the loan program. Such vessels must be constructed in American shipyards.

The above are just a few ideas of efforts that could be undertaken.

However, none are a "quick fix" and many require implementation money. But most of all they require dedication, hard work and perseverance.

In conclusion, not all U.S. laws related to the economic development process designed for a continental land mass on the other side of the world in the western hemisphere by the United States Congress will always transfer easily to an island economy situated in the eastern hemisphere without some degree of modification and adaptation. The Jones Act, or more correctly the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 is a classic example of a law that can be detrimental to the economies of U.S. affiliated Pacific islands. This 90-year-old piece of legislation requires goods transported between any two U.S. ports—for example, as between the U. S. port of Oakland or Honolulu and Guam—must be shipped on American flag vessels. You can imagine what would happen in the event of a west coast Longshoreman's strike and sea freight bound for the islands backs up on the mainland.

It has happened at great and costly inconvenience to the islands.

Being the farthest star out in America's Pacific galaxy—the Marianas' geographic position on the doorstep of Asia has economic and political advantages largely unrealized by many in the U.S. Congress other than perhaps those associated with military issues. The NMI's delegate is working to overcome this deficiency in Congressional knowledge and is clearly articulating the needs and aspirations of the islands to those representatives who may never visit the islands.

Before the CNMI had its representative in Washington I recall contacting the office of one U.S. Senator to obtain some information and mentioned Saipan—the first remark made by staff was, "Is that the island once associated with Jack Abramoff ?" How's that for name recognition and knowledge of the NMI! That must be corrected.

Lastly, for those potential investors making their initial inquiry with the NMI's Washington delegate that office could use well designed investment promotional tools for distribution, detailed, project specific investment project profiles, a video, DVD's, brochures, and a representation allowance to buy a potential investor a cup of coffee or lunch. This office can be the NMI's window on the islands and the best sales arm on the U.S. mainland.

***To be continued.***

***Editor's Note:*** *With more than four decades of international experience as an economist and foreign investment advisor for development banks and finance institutions in North Africa, the Bahamas, Thailand's Board of Investment and the Inter-American Development Bank—the author offers a perspective and point of view for those who want to encourage foreign investment.*

# The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. |
| ▲85° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼77° |

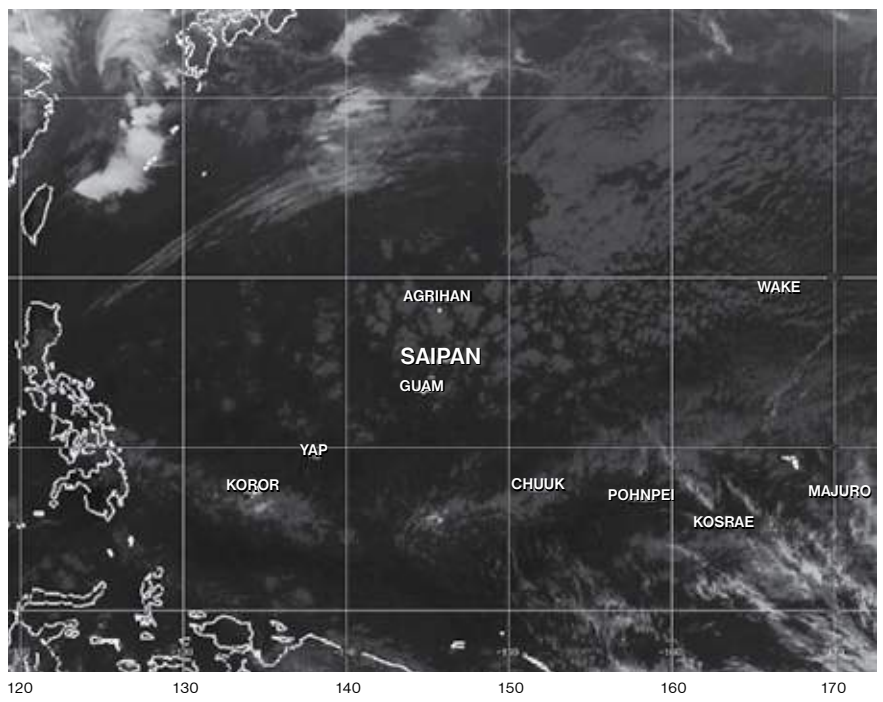
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Sunny | ▲84 | ▼74 |
| Palau | Sunny | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Sunny | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Mostly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼75 |
| Kosrae | Sunny | ▲87 | ▼75 |
| Majuro | Cloudy | ▲83 | ▼76 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲74 | ▼66 |
| Beijing | Cloudy | ▲29 | ▼18 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲80 | ▼68 |
| Honolulu | Partly Sunny | ▲76 | ▼68 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲37 | ▼28 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Sunny | ▲64 | ▼48 |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼74 |
| Melbourne | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼64 |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | ▲69 | ▼49 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲32 | ▼23 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲48 | ▼39 |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | ▲28 | ▼22 |
| Pusan | Rain | ▲49 | ▼33 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲47 | ▼33 |
| Salem | Rain | ▲52 | ▼39 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲57 | ▼48 |
| Seoul | Snow | ▲40 | ▼24 |
| Tokyo | Rain | ▲37 | ▼35 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲34 | ▼22 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Marine stratocumulus clouds cover much of the area between Guam and Wake Island and northward to beyond 25N. A shear line south of Wake Island extends from 15N180 southwestward between Pohnpei and Chuuk to near 4N145E then curves northwestward just south of Palau to beyond 7N130E. Scattered to broken clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers south of Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 4N160E to 2N170E and east of Majuro near the date line within 75 miles of a line from 8N178E to 4N180.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12:14 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 7:32 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet |
| 12:39 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet |
| 5:24 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:43 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Friday | 6:43 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Saturday | 6:43 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Sunday | 6:42 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Monday | 6:42 AM | 6:21 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 4:30 AM | 4:00 PM |
| Friday | 5:13 AM | 4:50 PM |
| Saturday | 5:52 AM | 5:39 PM |
| Sunday | 6:30 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Monday | 7:05 AM | 7:12 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 7:30pm | Daily via NRT |
| NW638 | 8:00am | 10:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| NW297 | 4:45pm | 7:30pm | Daily |
| NW289 | 5:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am | |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CA8282 | 3:15am | 7:00am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 1:30am+1 | 1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS |
| C09603/893 | 3:15pm | 9:10pm | 3, 5 via GUM-PALAU |
| OZ606/715 | 3:20pm | 11:30pm | 7 via ICN |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:00am | 2:30am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09316 | 2:00am | 2:50am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09598 | 2:00am | 3:45am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW288 | 12:05pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily via NRT effective Jan 25 |
| NW277 | 8:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 3, 6 |
| NW639 | 9:00pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW290 | 10:00am | 2:35pm | Daily |
| NW298 | 10:05am | 2:50pm | Daily |
| NW288 | 9:00pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm | |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CA8281 | 6:40pm | 1:55am+1 | 4, 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ716/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4, 6 via ICN |
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0892/9596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 3,5 via PALAU-GUM |
| C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

# Business

## STOCK Portfolio

### ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,533.000
Up 12.300
(+0.27%)

HONG KONG
19,782.88
Down 7.40
(-0.04%)

JAKARTA
2,484.2371
Down 5.248
(-0.21%)

TOKYO
9,979.87
Up 46.97
(+0.47%)

K. LUMPUR
1,244.69
Up 10.83
(+0.88%)

MANILA
2,857.24
Up 59.63
(+2.13%)

SINGAPORE
2,733.74
Down 11.28
(-0.41%)

SEOUL
1,570.86
Up 0.37
(+0.02%)

BANGKOK
688.97
Up 3.08
(+0.45%)

### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,058.64
+150.25

NASDAQ
2,150.87
+24.82

S&P
1,070.52
+13.78

### MONEY MARKET

| | |
|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.1425 |
| British Pound | 0.638 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.0688 |
| Chinese Renmbi | 6.8276 |
| Euro | 0.7271 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7689 |
| Indian Rupee | 46.569 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 9357.5 |
| Japanese Yen | 89.724 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 3.4328 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.442 |
| Philippine Peso | 46.38 |
| Singapore Dollar | 1.419 |
| South Korean Won | 1160.15 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.0667 |
| Taiwan Dollar | 32.047 |
| Thailand Baht | 33.165 |

*In U.S. dollar terms*

*Source: Associated Press*

# Toyota seeks damage control, in public and private

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In public, Toyota is running apologetic TV ads and vowing to win back customers' trust. Behind the scenes, the besieged carmaker is trying to learn all it can about congressional investigations, maybe even steer them if it can.

It's part of an all-out drive by the world's biggest auto manufacturer to redeem its once unassailable brand—hit anew on Tuesday as Toyota's global recall ballooned to 8.5 million cars and trucks. The day's safety recall of 440,000 of its flagship Prius and other hybrids, plus a Tokyo news conference where the company's president read a statement in English pledging to "regain the confidence of our customers," underscored a determination to keep buyers' faith from sinking to unrecoverable depths.

In Washington, facing congressional inquiries and government investigations, Toyota through its lawyers and lobbyists is working full-speed to salvage its reputation. The confidential strategy—Toyota will say little publicly about its efforts—includes efforts to sway upcoming hearings on Capitol Hill and is based on experiences by companies that have survived similar consumer and political crises—and those that haven't.

Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich, said Toyota representatives visited his offices seeking to learn all they could.

"They're probing us. 'What are you going to ask us, where are you going with this whole thing?'" said Stupak, who is chairman of a House subcommittee looking into Toyota's problems.

Toyota, which reported spending more than $4 million on lobbying last year, declined to discuss details of its plans. The company has "beefed up our team" by hiring additional lobbyists, lawyers and public relations experts to "work with regulators and lawmakers collaboratively towards a successful recall effort, ensuring proper, diligent compliance," spokeswoman Cindy Knight said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

AP

A technician operates a diagnosing equipment "TA scan" in a Prius, to fix the program of the antilock brake system at a dealership of Toyota Motor Corp., in Tokyo, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

## *Honda expands airbag inflation recall*

**DETROIT** (AP)—Honda Motor Co. is adding more than 378,000 cars to an existing safety recall for air bag inflation problems, the company said Tuesday.

The company will replace the driver's side air bag inflator on the cars because they can deploy with too much pressure, causing the inflator to rupture and injure or kill the driver.

The recall now affects more than 822,000 vehicles, including certain 2001 and 2002 Accord sedans, Civic compacts, Odyssey minivans, CR-V small sport utility vehicles and some 2002 Acura TL sedans.

Honda said it is aware of 12 incidents linked to the problem, with 11 injuries and one death. The company said it is not aware of any problems happening after July 2009.

"However, we have concluded that we cannot be completely certain that the driver's air bag inflator in the vehicles being added to this recall at this time will perform as designed," Honda said in a statement.

Honda's announcement comes at a time of increased attention on automotive recalls. Though the problems are unrelated, rival Toyota Motor Corp. in the process of recalling more than 8 million cars and trucks due to faulty gas pedals. On Tuesday, Toyota said it would recall more than 440,000 of its flagship 2010 Prius hybrids due to a braking glitch.

"There is a heightened sensitivity right to anything to do with recalls," said John Mendel, executive vice president of sales for American Honda.

Honda originally announced the recall to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in November of 2008, involving fewer than 4,000 2001 Accords and Civics, the company said. The recall was expanded in July of 2009 to 440,000 vehicles including the 2001 and 2002 Accord and Civic, as well as certain 2002 Acura TL sedans.

Worldwide, Honda has recalled about 514,000 vehicles globally due to the airbag problem. The company said it would make issue a press release at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Tokyo (9 p.m. Tuesday EST) about how many vehicles are affected worldwide by the latest recall expansion.

Company officials said the airbag produces too much pressure that can cause the inflator to rupture, sending metal fragments toward the driver.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Consumers tepid as Disney posts flat 1Q profit

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Consumers sent tepid signals to The Walt Disney Co. during the holiday quarter, as many of them still required discounts to step into theme parks and reduced spending on food, beverages and merchandise when they got there. A nascent advertising recovery also had an uneven effect on the company, as ESPN benefited from higher ad revenue, while the ABC broadcast network suffered from fewer viewers and lower advertising rates. The Disney Channel, which doesn't run commercials, saw fees from cable and satellite operators grow. "At this point we have limited visibility regarding the economy and its impact on our businesses," Chief Executive Bob Iger said on a conference call. "Thus we will continue to focus on controlling costs while creating great content and experiences and building our brands."

### Airgas board rejects Air Products' buyout offer

**RADNOR, Pa.** (AP)—Industrial gas supplier Airgas Inc. on Tuesday rejected the unsolicited $5 billion buyout bid from larger rival Air Products and Chemicals Inc., calling it a "bargain basement price." In a letter to Air Products CEO John McGlade, Airgas said the $60 per share offer, as well as an earlier bid of $62 per share, "grossly" undervalues the company. Airgas also noted that, with the current depressed prices for many companies in the market, it is a "terrible" time to sell the business.

### Micron to buy Numonyx in $1.3 billion stock deal

**BOISE, Idaho** (AP)—Micron Technology says it plans to buy fellow memory chip maker Numonyx in an all-stock transaction the companies value at $1.27 billion. Micron plans to issue 140 million shares to Numonyx shareholders, Francisco Partners and chip makers Intel Corp. and STMicroelectronics NV. Numonyx was created by the three companies in 2008. Micron will issue up to 10 million additional shares to Numonyx shareholders, depending on Micron's average share price for 20 trading days. The transaction is expected to close within three to six months pending regulatory approval, Micron says. Micron expects the transaction to add to its earnings beginning in 2011.

## Target pulls Valentine's toys over lead concerns

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Target Corp. said Tuesday it was pulling its Valentine's Day "Message Bears" from store shelves after California's attorney general raised concerns that the toys have illegal levels of lead.

The response comes a day after a letter sent by Attorney General Jerry Brown said testing of the holiday toys revealed lead levels that violate federal law.

The products, which were made in China for Target's in-house brand, were identified as the retailer's two "Message Bears"—one a pink stuffed bear with "XOXO" across the chest and the other a brown stuffed bear with "I Love U" across the chest, with "love" represented by a heart.

Investigators from the Center for Environmental Health, a nonprofit watchdog, found that the bears' inflated vinyl letters contained well over federal limits for lead in products for children under the age of 12.

Beth Hanson, a spokeswoman for the Minneapolis-based Target, said the company received Brown's letter and has pulled the toys. She said it is conducting an internal investigation.

"We are removing the product from shelves as well as hard-locking them at the registers," Hanson said. "Target's initial investigation indicates this product had compliant testing results when it was shipped." Hanson declined to say how many of the Valentine's Day bears Target had sold or purchased.

The lead levels were brought to Brown's attention by the center, which bought the toys at stores in California.

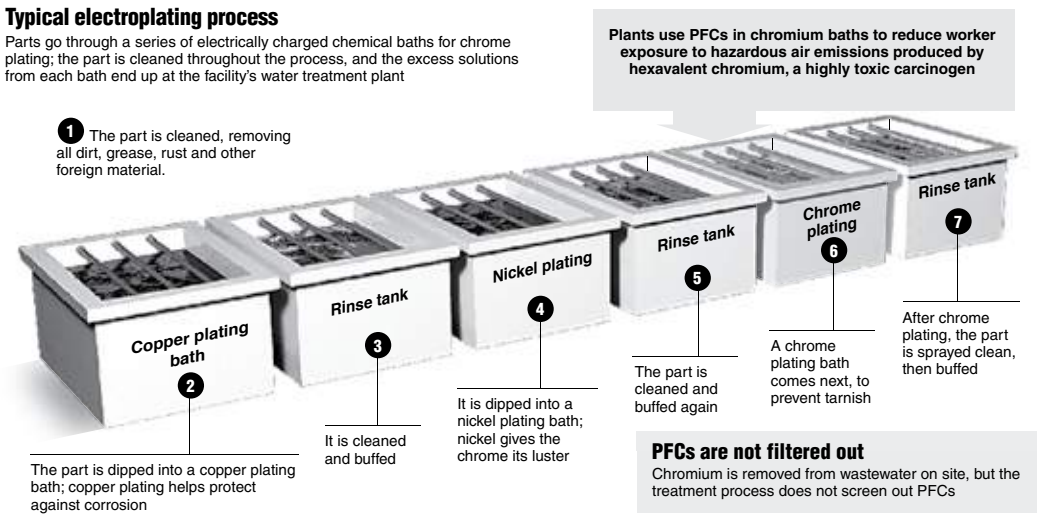
Lead exposure can damage the nervous system and other organs, and can be especially harmful to children.

"Parents need to know that lead-tainted vinyl has no place on products for their kids," Caroline Cox, research director for CEH, said in a statement.

The bears were sold exclusively by Target stores, the center's report stated.

## Chrome plating chemicals pollute waterways

*Chemicals used by metal platers as fume suppressants are washing into Chicago's sewer systems and eventually into streams and lakes. The chemicals, known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), are linked to cancer and other health problems.*


Typical electroplating process
Parts go through a series of electrically charged chemical baths for chrome plating; the part is cleaned throughout the process, and the excess solutions from each bath end up at the facility's water treatment plant
Plants use PFCs in chromium baths to reduce worker exposure to hazardous air emissions produced by hexavalent chromium, a highly toxic carcinogen
1 The part is cleaned, removing all dirt, grease, rust and other foreign material.
Copper plating bath
2
The part is dipped into a copper plating bath; copper plating helps protect against corrosion
Rinse tank
3
It is cleaned and buffed
Nickel plating
4
It is dipped into a nickel plating bath; nickel gives the chrome its luster
Rinse tank
5
The part is cleaned and buffed again
Chrome plating
6
A chrome plating bath comes next, to prevent tarnish
Rinse tank
7
After chrome plating, the part is sprayed clean, then buffed
PFCs are not filtered out
Chromium is removed from wastewater on site, but the treatment process does not screen out PFCs
© 2010 MCT
NOTE: Tank order may vary
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Department of Health
Graphic: Alex Bordens, Chicago Tribune

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Teen arrested in killing of LA anti-gang counselor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Ronald "Loony" Barron urged a young graffiti tagger to put away his paint cans, he was doing what he viewed as his mission—steering kids away from crime—but he paid for it with his life. Los Angeles police arrested a 16-year-old boy on Tuesday, saying he would be charged with murder for shooting Barron to death Sunday night after Barron confronted him. A 40-year-old former member of the notorious Crips gang, Barron in more recent years had become a respected anti-gang counselor who had preached against violence in schools and jails.

### LA-area foothills under mudslide threat

**LACANADAFLINTRIDGE, Calif.** (AP)—Homeowners in mud-ravaged foothill towns north of Los Angeles packed their cars and left Tuesday as evacuation orders took hold and a new winter storm arrived. Officials issued evacuation orders for 541 homes on the hillsides of La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Acton and two canyons. Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies went door to door, urging people to leave; those who refused signed waivers acknowledging they were aware of the risk. Sheriff's deputies also asked residents to move their vehicles and trash cans away from the streets, where heavy rain on Saturday caused water and rocks to roar through, smashing cars and concrete barriers together.

### Man claims Va. deputies beat him for burping

**ROANOKE, Va.** (AP)—A Roanoke man claims sheriff's deputies beat him in the city jail because of his burping. Thomas Scott Vandegrift made the allegations in a federal lawsuit filed last week against several deputies, the city, the sheriff's office and the sheriff. According to the lawsuit, the deputies were annoyed by Vandegrift's burping, which was caused by acid reflux. Vandegrift was being held at the jail on a drunken driving charge. He pleaded no contest in 2008 and received a six-month suspended sentence, a $750 fine and a year of driving restrictions. The lawsuit alleges excessive force, conspiracy to violate civil rights and assault and battery. Sheriff's office spokeswoman Patricia Johnson said Monday there would be no comment on the lawsuit.

# Snow shuts down federal government, life goes on

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—If snow keeps 230,000 government employees home for the better part of a week, will anyone notice? With at least another foot of snow headed for Washington, Philadelphia and New York, we're about to find out. The federal government in the nation's capital has largely been shut down since Friday afternoon, when a storm began dumping up to 3 feet of snow in some parts of the region. Offices could remain closed at least through Wednesday.

So far, the effects have been negligible. Many essential government services are performed at offices around the country, and about 85 percent of federal employees work outside the Washington region anyway. Others were working from home despite the snow. An IRS spokeswoman said tax returns should not be affected.

"Anything that is critical is going to get done," said Linda Springer, a former director of the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the federal work force of nearly 2 million workers.

David Fiore, who works for the federal government's Export-Import Bank of the U.S., stocked up on groceries Tuesday in Washington and said he planned to do some work from home, including a 2 p.m. conference call.

"They're open in Turkey. I'm getting e-mails from Morocco," he said. "The work goes on."

Philadelphia and Washington needed just 9 more inches of snow each to log the snowiest winters since at least 1884, the first year records were kept.

Even before the storm arrived in the nation's capital, the House announced it was scrapping the rest of its workweek. Several hearings and meetings were postponed, including one planned for Wednesday on Toyota's massive recalls.

Agencies from the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal Trade Commission canceled hearings and planned announcements because of the looming snow. Shuttering the agencies for a day costs the government an estimated $100 million in lost productivity and related costs.

Down Pennsylvania Avenue, the White House decided to move up by a day a Black History Month concert featuring Bob Dylan, Smokey Robinson and Natalie Cole. It had been slated for Wednesday, but was instead moved to Tuesday night.

President Barack Obama held a bipartisan meeting with congressional leaders ahead of the storm Tuesday and joked that it went so well that Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky had gone out to play in the snow.

"In fact, I understand that McConnell and Reid are out doing snow angels on the South Lawn together," Obama joked as he made an unannounced stop in the White House briefing room.

The snow started in the Midwest before moving into the Mid-Atlantic region, where utility workers struggled to restore power already knocked out by a weekend blizzard.

AP

A U.S. Passport Office in downtown Washington is closed Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010. The federal government told workers in the Washington area to stay home for a third day as federal buildings and offices will remain closed on Wednesday, Feb. 10, as another winter storm enters the area.

Meteorological 'bomb'
Heavy snowfall
Atlantic Ocean
Weakens
Turns into blizzard
Rapidly intensifies
• A storm from the Midwest is forecast to re-form off the Southeast coast, intensify and become what meteorologists call a "bomb"; the fallout could bring another 12 to 18 inches to the already snow-covered region
© 2010 MCT
Source: Accuweather
Graphic: The Philadelphia Inquirer

# Obama would okay health bill minus items he pursued

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Signaling he'd meet critics part way on health care, President Barack Obama said Tuesday he's willing to sign a bill even if it doesn't deliver everything he pursued through a year of grinding effort at risk of going down as a dismal failure.

The Democrats' massive health overhaul legislation is stalled in Congress by disagreements within the party and the loss last month of their 60th Senate vote, and with it, control of the agenda. Republicans suspect that Obama's invitation to a televised health care summit Feb. 25 is a thinly disguised political trap. On Tuesday, the president tried to change the dour dynamic, indicating he could settle for less in order to move ahead.

"Let's put the best ideas on the table," Obama told reporters after meeting with congressional leaders of both parties. "My hope is that we can find enough overlap that we can say, this is the right way to move forward, even if I don't get every single thing that I want."

Obama's overarching goals are to rein in medical costs and expand coverage to millions of uninsured. Specifically, Obama said he'd be willing to work on ways to limit medical malpractice lawsuits—one of the main ideas Republicans have for reducing costs, by addressing the problem of defensive medicine. Democrats, who count trial lawyers among their most generous contributors, especially in an election year, have blocked all previous attempts to tackle the issue.

Obama's flexibility marks a contrast with the approach former President Bill Clinton took in the 1990s when his health care overhaul got bogged down in Congress. Clinton sternly waved his veto pen at lawmakers and threatened to reject any legislation that fell short of his goal of covering all Americans. The bill died, and Democrats lost control of Congress in the 1994 midterm election.

Still, Republican leaders expressed renewed skepticism about Obama's call for bipartisanship and reiterated their demand that Obama jettison the Democratic bills and start from scratch.

"It's going to be very difficult to have a bipartisan conversation with regard to a 2,700-page health care bill that the Democrat majority in the House and the Democrat majority in the Senate can't pass," said House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio. "It really is time to scrap the bill and start over." Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky echoed those sentiments, even though the White House says Obama has no plans to set the clock back to beginning.

# Murtha's death sets stage for marquee House race

**JOHNSTOWN, Pa.** (AP)—Democrats have long dominated the late Rep. John Murtha's district in western Pennsylvania, but Republicans have made inroads in recent years that could help them win back the seat—and some longtime Murtha supporters say they're open to voting for a GOP candidate.

Rose Marie Favina, 69, described herself a Democrat who supported Murtha and particularly liked what she called his "pro-life" views. Now she's considering switching to the GOP and plans to vote for the best candidate for Murtha's seat, whatever the party.

Murtha

"I don't like being called a liberal, because I'm not a liberal," said Favina at the Eat'n Center, a deli and grocery in Johnstown, in the heart of Pennsylvania's hard-scrabble coal and steel country.

Political analysts said Tuesday that they expect a competitive contest in the race to replace Murtha, whose ability to steer federal dollars to the economically strapped district made him a powerful figure even beyond Pennsylvania.

The race is expected to be a marquee contest. A Republican win in the traditionally Democratic stronghold would be hugely symbolic and could create momentum for a national GOP that sees itself as resurgent heading into the 2010 midterm elections.

Murtha died Monday at a hospital at age 77 after complications from gallbladder surgery. Gov. Ed Rendell says he hasn't decided when to schedule a special election to replace him.

"The unfortunate passing of Murtha opens yet another seat Republicans think they can make a run at," said Muhlenberg College political scientist Chris Borick. "They're optimistic."

Murtha's district encompasses all or part of nine counties in southwestern Pennsylvania and embodies the region's image of coal mines, steel mills and blue-collar values. He was elected in 1974 and has won re-election over the years by large margins.

# NY governor says he'll step aside only 'in a box'

**ALBANY, N.Y.** (AP)—New York Gov. David Paterson, defying calls from even fellow Democrats to drop out of the race for a full term, said Tuesday that he would leave only if the voters turned him out through the ballot box, or "in a box."

Paterson spoke to reporters after several days of rumors sweeping the state Capitol about carousing in the governor's mansion, all of which Paterson strongly denied.

Since Paterson took over from his predecessor, who resigned in a prostitution scandal, his popularity has plummeted and many Democrats have voiced their preference that Attorney General Andrew Cuomo run for governor when Paterson's term is up.

That infighting and the recent rumormongering have further fractured state Democrats and added a decidedly weird edge to the national party's struggle to maintain ground it gained in the last election.

Facing challenges from coast to coast amid voter frustration with incumbents of both parties, Democrats in particular are girding for losses that could see states' chief executives go into Republican hands. New York, a traditionally Democratic-leaning state, would be a devastating blow to a party that just two years ago saw a landslide amid the election of Obama.

Paterson appeared to take heart from an interview earlier in the day with The New York Times, which had been widely anticipated to be preparing a story dealing with his personal conduct. He said that in the interview he was not asked about drug use in the governor's mansion or partying with women.

# Asia

# Nearly 200 people indicted in RP massacre

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine prosecutors filed charges Tuesday against the head of a powerful clan and 195 others in the biggest and deadliest murder case since the country's World War II war crimes trials.

The indictment said Andal Ampatuan Sr. and the others were part of a conspiracy to ambush and kill members of the rival Mangudadatu family and supporters, who were gunned down Nov. 23 on a hilltop in Maguindanao province. In all, 57 people died the massacre apparently to prevent Esmael Mangudadatu from challenging the Ampatuans' control of the province in a gubernatorial election.

Among those killed were 30 journalists and their staff who were going to cover the filing of Mangudadatu's candidacy papers.

The massacre was unprecedented even for the country notorious for election violence and political killings that have claimed hundreds of lives this decade alone. Only the war crime trials of World War II Japanese commanders in the Philippines involved the higher numbers of victims.

"I would say it is the biggest (trial) since the war, but I would even say in Philippine history because I don't put this in the same category of wars or those political crimes where you talk of numbers of victims," said Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera.

"Legally, it will take a little while because every accused has a right," she told The Associated Press.

Mangudadatu, who said he had received death threats from the Ampatuans, sent his wife and other female relatives and supporters to the provincial capital in the hope that his rival would not harm the women.

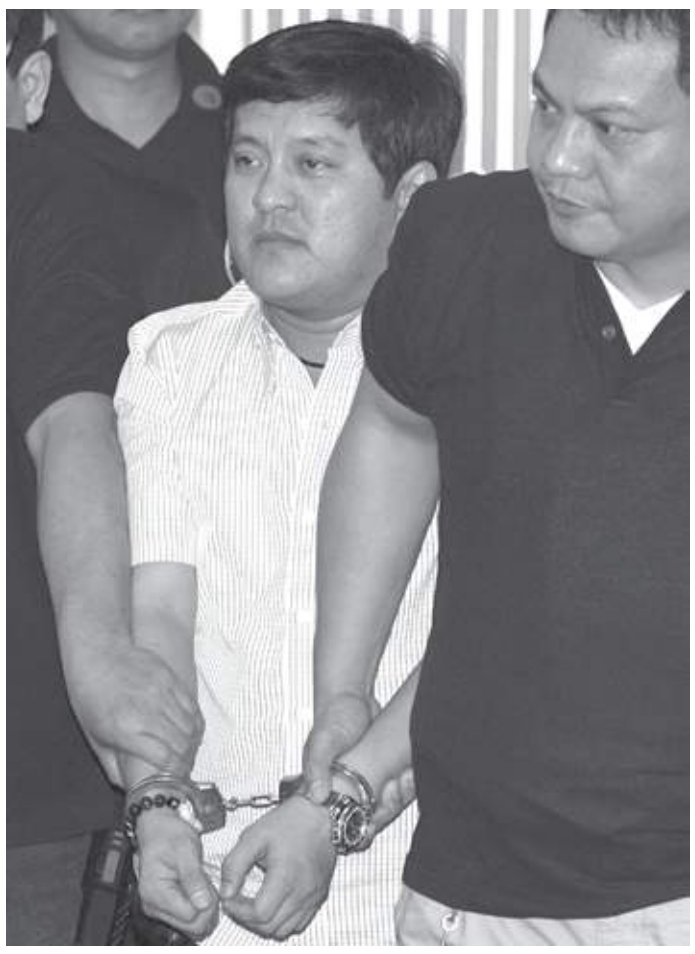
Before Tuesday's indictment, only the patriarch's son, Andal Ampatuan Jr., had been formally charged.

"From the witnesses presented ... it can be deduced that the commission of the crime was planned deliberately by the perpetrators and that, until its consummation, there was an inexorable resolve to kill," the indictment document said. "Consequently, their plan was carried out leading to the mass murder."

Andal Ampatuan Jr. has pleaded not guilty and is seeking bail.

No date has been set for the arraignment of his father, brothers and the other co-accused.

The 69-year-old clan patriarch, an ally of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, has denied any involvement and said the charges have been fabricated. He also denied a witness's statement saying he allegedly told his son, "You know what to do" with the people in the convoy.



AP

Hancuffed Andal Ampatuan Jr. is led by members of the National Bureau of Investigation during his trial at the heavily guarded Philippine National Police headquarters in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010.

## US poised to seize Afghan town as Taliban digs in

**NEAR MARJAH, Afghanistan** (AP)—U.S. and Afghan forces pushed Tuesday to the edge of the southern Afghan town of Marjah, poised to seize the major Taliban supply and drug-smuggling stronghold in hopes of building public support by providing aid and services once the insurgents are gone.

Instead of keeping the offensive secret, Americans have been talking about it for weeks, expecting the Taliban would flee. But the militants appear to be digging in, apparently believing that even a losing fight would rally supporters and sabotage U.S. plans if the battle proves destructive.

No date for the main attack has been announced but all signs indicate it will come soon. It will be the first major offensive since President Barack Obama announced last December that he was sending 30,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan, and will serve as a significant test of the new U.S. strategy for turning back the Taliban.

About 400 U.S. troops from the Army's 5th Stryker Brigade and about 250 Afghan soldiers moved into positions northeast of Marjah before dawn Tuesday as U.S. Marines pushed to the outskirts of the town.

Automatic rifle fire rattled in the distance as the Marines dug in for the night with temperatures below freezing. The occasional thud of mortar shells and the sharp blast of rocket-propelled grenades fired by the Taliban pierced the air.

"They're trying to bait us, don't get sucked in," yelled a Marine sergeant, warning his troops not to venture closer to the town. In the distance, Marines could see farmers and nomads gathering their livestock at sunset, seemingly indifferent to the firing.

## UN envoy arrives in North Korea to spur nuke talks

AP

In this photo released by Korean Central News Agency via Korea News Service in Tokyo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, right, meets with senior Chinese Communist Party envoy Wang Jiarui, unseen, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—A senior U.N. envoy pressed ahead Wednesday with international efforts to get North Korea back into nuclear disarmament talks, during the world body's first high-level visit to the reclusive state in nearly six years.

U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe was greeted Tuesday by North Korean officials at an airport on the outskirts of the capital Pyongyang, according to footage broadcast by APTN in Pyongyang. Also Tuesday, North Korea's top nuclear envoy, Kim Kye Gwan, flew to Beijing to discuss nuclear talks with Chinese officials.

A day earlier, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il renewed his country's commitment to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula during a meeting with a visiting senior envoy from China.

The flurry of diplomacy heightened speculation that there could be a breakthrough to jump-start the stalled talks to rid Pyongyang of its nuclear programs.

"This is a sign that the resumption of the six-party talks is imminent," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. "Kim Kye Gwan is expected to tell Chinese officials about North Korea's disarmament plan in a more concrete manner"—probably in return for aid from Beijing, he said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters Tuesday that the United States supported talks between North Korea and China and hoped that the contact would lead to a resumption of the nuclear disarmament talks.

He said North Korea seemed to be saying the right things recently but added: "The right words must be followed by action. Words by themselves are not sufficient."

## Over 60 feared dead, 400 hurt in Afghan avalanches

**KABUL** (AP)—A series of avalanches engulfed a mountain pass in Afghanistan, trapping hundreds of people in their buried cars and killing as many as 64 people so far, authorities said Tuesday.

Rescuers brought in bulldozers, ambulances and helicopters in a massive effort to reach victims stuck in the frigid snow along the 12,700-feet-high (3,800-meter) Salang Pass, which links the Afghan capital Kabul with the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Search-and-rescue teams recovered the bodies of 24 people but said they feared 40 others remain trapped and may have also died, Interior Minister Hanif Atmar said at a news conference in Kabul. About 2,500 people were rescued from their snowbound vehicles, including more than 400 injured.

"Twenty-four bodies have been recovered so far, but the fear is that there could be up to 40 more still buried and unfortunately, they might have died already," he said. "That's the best estimate we have at this moment."

The avalanches struck Monday, burying vehicles along several miles (kilometers) of road under heavy snow. Atmar said that the highway tunnel had not been closed off earlier because there had been little warning.

"It happened all of a sudden and it took us by surprise," he said.

Military helicopters were dropping food packages to people stuck on snow-blocked roads, Interior Ministry spokesman Zemerai Bashary said. Earlier, Afghan reports said some 300 cars and buses were trapped on the mountain pass.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Sri Lankan parliament dissolved ahead of new vote

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—Sri Lanka's president dissolved parliament Tuesday to make way for spring elections a day after authorities arrested a key opposition leader, crippling the only serious threat to the ruling party's stifling grip on power. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's decision follows his sweeping victory at the polls last month over his former army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who had defected to the opposition after helping to end the country's quarter-century civil war. Fonseka was arrested by the military on Monday on sedition charges. If last month's presidential poll is anything to go by, the upcoming parliamentary contest will be another bitter race between the government and the opposition, which says it is being harassed and hounded. Human rights groups have echoed those accusations.

### Stranded panda lured to safety in China

**BEIJING** (AP)—It was like getting a cat out of a tree—Sichuan style. Villagers in southwestern China's Sichuan province discovered a panda stranded on a steep mountain face, apparently too scared to climb down, state media reported Tuesday. Villagers didn't dare attempt a rescue of the endangered animal but called animal conservationists and fed the panda bananas while they waited for help, the China Central Television report said. "The panda is a national treasure, so everyone's scared to hurt it," a local forestry official was quoted as saying. The giant panda, estimated to be about 3-4 years old, was eventually lured from behind a tree with more bananas and managed to scramble off the mountain, it said.

### Bad liquor kills 8 on Indonesia's Java island

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Indonesian police say eight people have died after drinking liquor laced with methanol on the country's main island of Java. Police Maj. Syaiful Anwar said Tuesday the victims bought the drink from the same stall Friday. No one has been arrested. Police have questioned the street vendor who sold the alcohol in the central city of Yogyakarta. Methanol can be used for fuel and is an ingredient in formaldehyde, plastics and paints. Alcohol is heavily taxed in Indonesia, meaning high prices that have spawned a huge black market for wine and liquor. Last year 25 people died in two weeks after consuming a homemade liquor laced with methanol on Indonesia's resort islands of Bali and Lombok.

# World

## Doctor says vendor may have been in rubble 27 days

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—A rice vendor may have lived under the rubble of a flea market for 27 days with little more than water and possibly fruit, a doctor said Tuesday, in what would be a dramatic tale of survival four weeks after Haiti's devastating earthquake.

The man's account could not be independently confirmed, however, and the doctor conceded medical workers were skeptical at first, but he said they began to believe the man when he regained consciousness and told his story.

The man said he had just finished selling rice for the day at a downtown flea market when quake struck Jan. 12. He said he didn't suffer any major injuries and was trapped on his side in an area where food and drink vendors were selling their goods.

■■■

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Parents of some of the children who 10 U.S. missionaries tried to take out of Haiti after its catastrophic earthquake told a judge Tuesday that they freely handed over their kids, the Americans' lawyer said.**

**The parents' testimony means no law was broken and "we can't talk any more about trafficking of human beings," attorney Aviol Fleurant told reporters.**

**He said he was confident the judge will dismiss the case.**

**Nine of the Americans, most from an Idaho church group, have now been interviewed by the judge, who is to decide whether they will stand trial. The judge did not speak with reporters.**

**Flaurent said the Americans would be back in court Wednesday. One of them, Jim Allen of Amarillo, Texas, was represented by a separate lawyer Tuesday.**

■■■

"Based on that (his story), we believe him," said Dr. Dushyantha Jayaweera, a physician at the University of Miami Medishare field hospital where hundreds of patients have been treated since the quake.

AP

In this photo provided by michaelthemaven.com, a man who identified himself as Evans Monsigrace, 28, sits at the Salvation Army medical center in Port-au-Prince, Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

Doctors said two men first took the vendor—identified as Evans Monsigrace—to a Salvation Army medical center in Port-au-Prince on Monday and he was then taken to the University of Miami hospital because of his critical condition. The men who brought him also said he had been trapped under the debris since the disaster.

The patient was suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition, but health care workers expressed skepticism about his story when some of his lab work came back relatively normal, Jayaweera said. Then the man regained consciousness and was lucid enough to recount a tale that seems plausible, the doctor said.

Still, doctors at the field hospital or at a Salvation Army medical center had no way to confirm the story.

The last confirmed survivor found in Haiti was a 16-year-old girl removed from rubble by a French rescue team 15 days after the quake. Doctors said at the time that disaster survivors may be able to sustain themselves with a water supply and without medical attention for up to two weeks.

## Iran boosts nuclear enrichment, drawing warnings

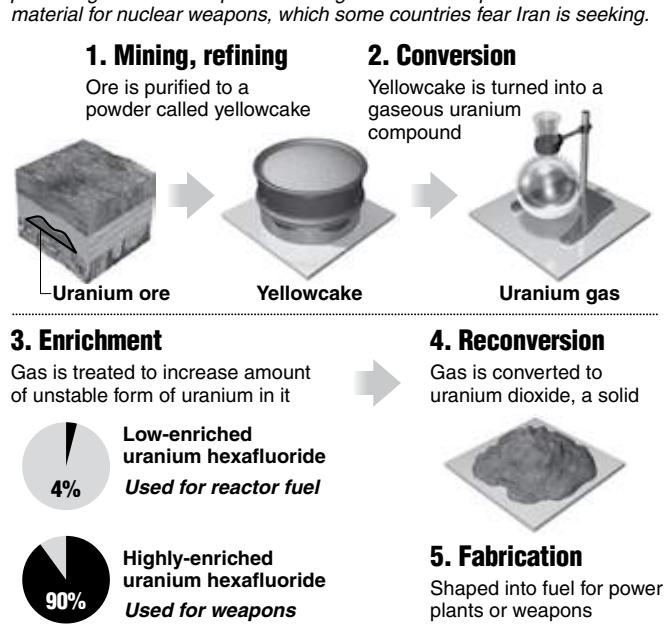
**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Iranian nuclear technicians set dozens of centrifuges spinning Tuesday to begin enriching uranium stocks to a significantly higher level, prompting President Barack Obama to warn of a "significant regime of sanctions."

Iran's acceleration in its enrichment program was a defiant step that puts weapons-grade uranium in closer reach, should Tehran choose to go after the bomb. It was also another in a series of mixed messages that appeared calculated to boost Iran's leverage in negotiations with world powers on limiting its nuclear program.

Only days ago, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran was ready to send its stockpiled uranium—currently enriched to safer, low levels—to Russia and France for processing into fuel rods to power a research reactor. That was proposed last year in a U.N.-drafted plan aimed at eliminating Iran's ability to enrich those stocks to higher levels needed for making warheads.

Obama, speaking at a surprise appearance in the White house briefing room, said the sanctions process is moving along quickly, but he gave no specific timeline.

In his most extensive remarks on Iran in some time, Obama said Iran appeared to have spurned his offer of engagement.


Enriching uranium
Iran says it is enriching uranium to 20 percent for a research reactor producing medical isotopes. Enriching uranium to 90 percent creates material for nuclear weapons, which some countries fear Iran is seeking.
1. Mining, refining
Ore is purified to a powder called yellowcake
2. Conversion
Yellowcake is turned into a gaseous uranium compound
Uranium ore
Yellowcake
Uranium gas
3. Enrichment
Gas is treated to increase amount of unstable form of uranium in it
4% Low-enriched uranium hexafluoride
Used for reactor fuel
90% Highly-enriched uranium hexafluoride
Used for weapons
4. Reconversion
Gas is converted to uranium dioxide, a solid
5. Fabrication
Shaped into fuel for power plants or weapons
Source: Uranium Information Center (Australia), Encyclopaedia Britannica, Reuters
© 2010 MCT

But even announcing its latest step, Iran was careful to leave the door open to a negotiated solution, saying it would stop the work if the West found a way to provide it with fuel for the research reactor, which makes radio isotopes for use in cancer treatment.

"Whenever they provide the fuel, we will halt production of 20 percent," Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's nuclear program, told state TV late Monday.

He was referring to the level of enrichment necessary for the Tehran reactor. Iran's current stockpile has been spun to a level of 3.5 percent, suitable for use in fueling power plants, which is Iran's primary stated aim for its enrichment program.

The United States and its allies in Europe suspect Iran is using such civilian work to mask an effort to develop a weapons capability. Central to their concern is uranium enrichment, which at levels of 90 percent provide a possible pathway to nuclear arms production.

## EU nations' reality: Greece's woes are theirs, too

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—Wealthy European nations were moving closer toward swallowing a bitter pill Tuesday: rescuing Greece from its overspending before its debts drag down the euro and stock markets all the way to Wall Street.

Stocks in the U.S. and Europe rose on expectations of some kind of decisive action to prevent a Greek debt default that could spread to other countries, undermining Europe's hesitant economic recovery.

European Union leaders will issue a statement on Greece's debt crisis during a Thursday meeting, officials said Tuesday—without giving details of what it would say. Markets reacted well to news that European Central Bank's president Jean-Claude Trichet would make a rare appearance at the summit in Brussels—which they saw as confirmation that some kind of help would be discussed.

The crisis has exposed the EU's Achilles' heel—states remain independent to spend as they wish, but their decisions can affect all 16 eurozone nations. Countries that help Greece risk having their own borrowing costs rise as a result, and could see other struggling eurozone economies get in line for aid.

Bernard Valero, a spokesman for France's foreign minister, said Tuesday that "we must help" Greece. "It's about helping a friend ... we are the European family." He did not give any details of that help.

## Italian Catholic scandal draws in Pope Benedict

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—A scandal in Italy's Catholic Church has morphed into a tale of Vatican intrigue complete with forged documents, reports of dueling cardinals and a papal admonishment Tuesday to put the matter to rest.

The scandal erupted in August, when the newspaper Il Giornale reported that it had court documents showing the editor of the newspaper of the Italian Bishops' Conference had paid to settle charges that he harassed the wife of a man he was romantically pursuing.

The revelations were initially seen as retribution by Il Giornale, which is owned by Premier Silvio Berlusconi's brother, against the bishops' newspaper, Avvenire. The Catholic paper had harshly criticized the premier and demanded he answer questions about his purported liaisons with younger women.

Il Giornale accused Avvenire editor Dino Boffo of hypocrisy, saying the journalist had been fined in a plea-bargain several years ago for making harassing calls to the man's wife.

Prosecutors say Boffo made the calls, but have denied the case involved a gay angle. Boffo acknowledged being fined in the case but said someone else had used his cell phone to make the calls. Amid the fallout, he resigned from Avvenire in September, saying he wanted to spare his family and the church further humiliation.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Iran sentences another activist to death

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Iran has convicted another opposition activist on charges related to the country's post-election turmoil and sentenced him to death, the judiciary said Tuesday, bringing to at least 10 the number of those facing the death penalty for the unrest following June's disputed presidential election. Meanwhile, the New York-based International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran said compiled figures show that at least 1,000 people have been detained in Iran since the unrest began, but that the actual number is likely higher. Some 500 of those in detention have been arrested since deadly clashes between opposition supporters and security forces in late December, the group said.

### Nigeria: Vice president now acting president

**ABUJA, Nigeria** (AP)—Nigeria's parliament empowered Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to run Africa's most populous nation Tuesday in place of an ill and absent president, striving for a political end to a crisis that ground the government to a virtual halt and triggered the resumption of an insurgency in the vital oil sector. But the move is not contemplated in the constitution, legal experts say, and could cause more friction between the Christian south, which gains the presidency at least temporarily, and Muslim north, which finds itself out of the seat of power.

### Relatives in eastern Cuba say woman has turned 125

**HAVANA** (AP)—Relatives in eastern Cuba claim to have held a 125th birthday party for a woman named Juana Bautista de la Candelaria Rodriguez, but it is not clear if she is really that old. The state-run news agency Prensa Latina reported on the party last weekend in the city of Bayamo in Granma province, attended by Rodriguez's family, including 15 great-grand children and four great-great-grandchildren. Prensa Latina said Rodriguez, known affectionately as "Candulia," is "presumably the oldest person on the planet, although that has not been confirmed."

# Environment

# A boost for corn-based ethanol?

By STEVEN MUFSON
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
An employee checks a storage tank at a biodiesel plant in Aberdeen, Wash. EPA standards could lift production of corn-based ethanol.

**WASHINGTON**—The nation's farmers got a big boost last week when the Obama administration issued new biofuels guidelines that could open the way for large increases in the production of corn-based ethanol.

The Environmental Protection Agency said new data showed that, even after taking into account increased fertilizer and land use, corn-based ethanol can yield significant climate benefits by displacing conventional gasoline or diesel fuel.

The new renewable-fuel standard issued by the EPA drew criticism from some environmentalists as well as oil industry representatives, who accused the Obama administration of catering to farm interests. In an earlier draft of the standard, the administration had said that corn-based ethanol output should be limited because its direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions exceeded renewable fuel standards.

"The numbers are inconsistent with the great bulk of analyses by others, which consistently find that emissions from indirect land use change for crops grown on productive land cancel out the bulk or all of the greenhouse gas reductions, but I will have to study the results," said Tim Searchinger, a research scholar at Princeton University and an author of articles critical of corn-based ethanol.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson defended the new guidelines, saying that she was "confident" that "we weren't dumbing down the standard to favor any particular industry or ... outcome." She said revised projections about crop yields and land productivity helped drive the new guidelines.

The biofuels announcement added to growing tension in the coalition of environmental, climate and renewable-energy groups that has supported President Obama's push for a comprehensive climate bill. This week, Obama again tried to promote such a bill and discourage lawmakers who favor simpler energy legislation instead.

"I don't want us to just say the easy way out is for us to just give a bunch of tax credits to clean-energy companies," Obama said. "The market works best when it responds to price. And if they start seeing that, you know what, dirty energy is a little pricier, clean energy is a little cheaper, they will ... think things through in all kinds of innovative ways."

With the climate legislation stalled in Congress, however, many of Obama's allies find themselves divided by the president's push for new offshore drilling, his budget's tripling of loan guarantees for nuclear power plants, and his repeated use of the phrase "clean coal," which the coal industry uses as shorthand for still unproven and uneconomic technologies that could limit carbon-dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants.

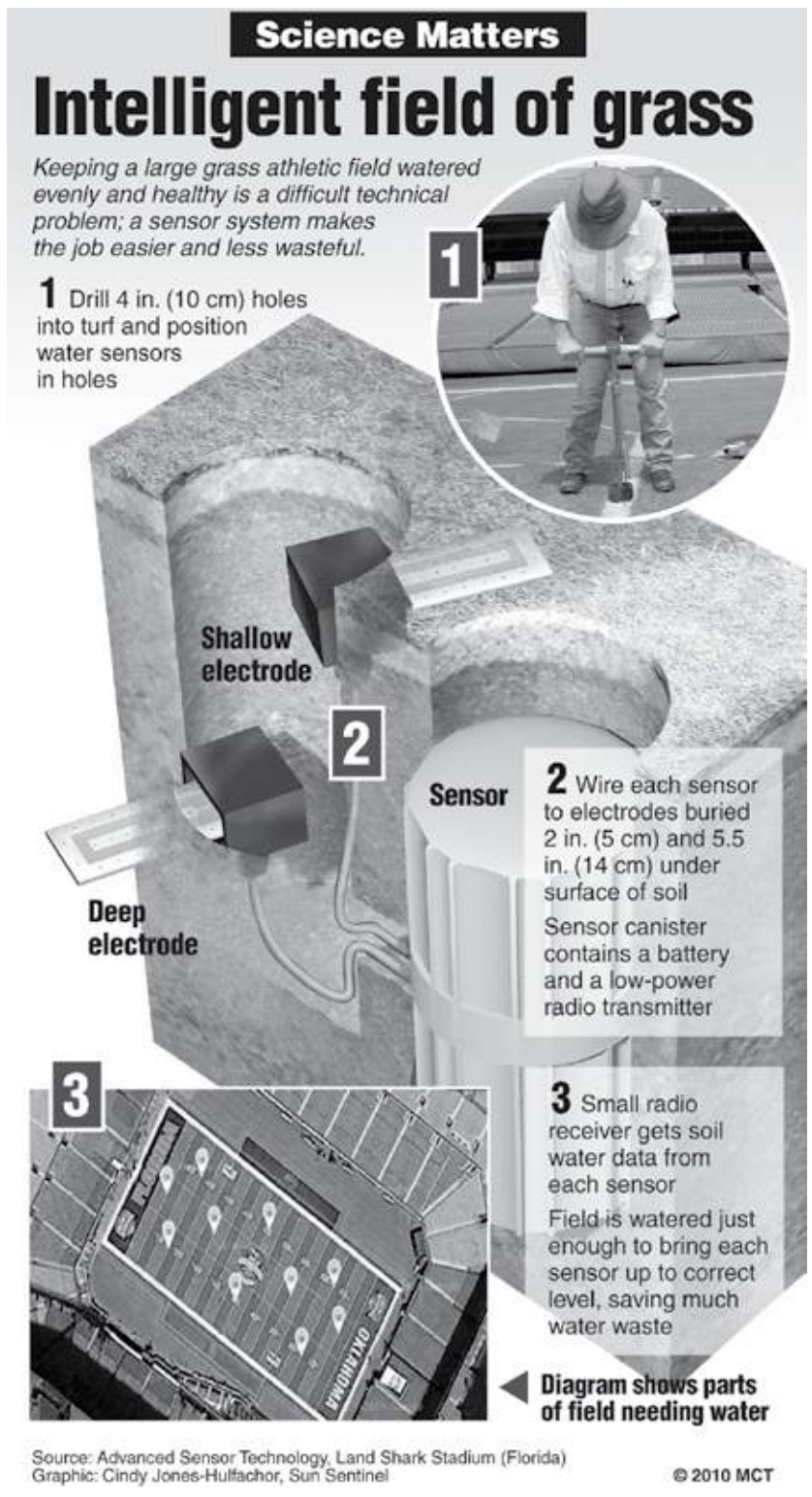
"While we stand wholeheartedly behind President Obama's overall vision, there are some areas of disagreement," the Sierra Club's executive director, Carl Pope, said in a statement. "We believe that there is no such thing as `clean coal.' "

Congress and many experts have long taken a wary view of corn-based ethanol, because of concerns that it might drive up food prices and because it could be counterproductive to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Existing legislation sets a target of 36 billion gallons of ethanol use by 2022, but corn-based ethanol is slated to account for less than half that total while cellulosic ethanol is slated to account for much more.

For this year, Congress had set a target of 100 million gallons of ethanol made from cellulosic raw materials such as switchgrass, corn cobs or wood chips. But EPA said this week that cellulosic production will amount to 6.5 million gallons, equal to a few pilot projects.

Some critics noted that the EPA's own documentation on the biofuels standards issued this week acknowledged that higher ethanol use could worsen smog in some regions and cause "245 cases of adult premature mortality."

"The thing that makes me happy is that we finally have an accounting tool. It's not perfect, but it will get better over time," said Nathanael Greene, director of renewable-energy policy at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "There are better biofuels and worse biofuels. We need to encourage the better ones and discourage the worse ones."


Science Matters
Intelligent field of grass
Keeping a large grass athletic field watered evenly and healthy is a difficult technical problem; a sensor system makes the job easier and less wasteful.
1 Drill 4 in. (10 cm) holes into turf and position water sensors in holes
Shallow electrode
Deep electrode
Sensor
2 Wire each sensor to electrodes buried 2 in. (5 cm) and 5.5 in. (14 cm) under surface of soil
Sensor canister contains a battery and a low-power radio transmitter
3 Small radio receiver gets soil water data from each sensor
Field is watered just enough to bring each sensor up to correct level, saving much water waste
Diagram shows parts of field needing water
Source: Advanced Sensor Technology, Land Shark Stadium (Florida)
Graphic: Cindy Jones-Hulfachor, Sun Sentinel
© 2010 MCT

# Safeguard your farming business by avoiding unregistered pesticides

*Second of a third-part series*

Many pesticides products are available, but not all products are registered and thus legal to use.

Did you know that if you use pesticides on your farm they must be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)? Also, if you import, sell, distribute, use or dispose of unregistered pesticides, you may be in violation of federal law and CNMI Division of Environmental Quality pesticide regulations.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. If on your farm you use products that kill pests such as insects, fungi and weeds, these products are considered pesticides and must be registered with US EPA.

Legal products are registered with the EPA and have on the label an EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) and an EPA Establishment Number (EPA Est. No.). The label must have complete instructions including where the product can be used, application instructions, what personal protective equipment to wear, and proper storage and disposal of the pesticide. These instructions must be in English.

Unregistered pesticides may pose added risks to anyone who applies the pesticide, fieldworkers and consumers who handle and eat the produce, and to the environment. If illegal pesticide residues are detected on your crops they may be quarantined or confiscated.

If you think you have unregistered pesticide products at your farm or business, DO NOT THROW THEM AWAY. Contact Division of Environmental Quality for information and guidance in proper disposal.

## Pesticide law

Pesticides are regulated by the CNMI Environmental Protection Act (Public Law 3-23) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Enforcement of both is the responsibility of the Division of Environmental Quality.

These laws set stringent rules governing the use of pesticides by:

Requiring federal registration of pesticides sold or distributed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prohibiting the use of any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with product labeling.

Restricting the sale and use of certain hazardous pesticides to licensed dealers and certified applicator.

Prohibiting the importation of unregistered pesticides.

For more information on pesticides and their use, contact the Pesticide program at the Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500/1 or via email at environment@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

# 2009 Senior Start Smart Seminar

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Students are taught to fill up financial aid forms during the Start Smart Seminar.

Saipan Southern High School students organized an icebreaker activity during the Start Smart seminar held on Tuesday.

A student from Saipan Southern High School shows off his yo-yo skills during the Start Smart seminar's lunch break.

Student body vice president Daniel Kintol talks about his experience as a student at NMC.

NMC's Galvin DL. Guerrero assures students that NMC is an accredited institution.

Marianas High School principal and commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan addresses students from MHS during the Start Smart seminar held on Monday.

Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera advises students about life after high school.

Business Person of the Year, Ben Babauta, was the keynote speaker during Day 2 of the Start Smart seminar.

Senior students from MHS enjoy a light breakfast before the presentations began at the Start Smart seminar on Monday.

NMC invited CNMI leaders to the Start Smart Q&A panel of discussion organized by NMC dean Leo Pangelinan. From left, Atty. Joe Camacho, Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada, and John Gonzales.

# Life & Style

# Jackson celebrity turns doctor case into spectacle

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—There's no bloody glove this time, no smoking gun, no faded music icon showing up in court wearing a wig that made it look like he plugged his finger into an electrical socket.

There's not even a celebrity for that matter—the person on trial is a doctor no one had heard of eight months ago.

Still, the case of the People vs. Michael Jackson's doctor has already taken on all the trappings of a full-blown Los Angeles celebrity trial, complete with a scrum of paparazzi and news photographers staking out the accused's residence and chasing him everywhere he goes. The mere rumor that he would be arrested or surrender sent an army of news photographers from all over the world rushing to a courthouse.

So it seems certain that Conrad Murray will join the ranks of O.J. Simpson, Robert Blake and Phil Spector in the pantheon of Los Angeles celebrity defendants, even if he's an obscure Texas cardiologist in a case of medical negligence.

"There are no surprises here. We know how the guy died, we know who allegedly gave it to him. But lacking surprises, it's Michael Jackson. The news shows can play endless loops of Michael Jackson singing. Maybe his children will come into the courtroom, and what a day that would be," says Judy Muller, who shared in an Emmy for ABC's coverage of the ultimate celebrity trial, the one that ended with O.J. Simpson being acquitted of murder in 1995.

"I hate to be cynical but I've been here long enough to know how this will play," added Muller. "It's Michael Jackson and it's a celebrity trial, even if it's a dead celebrity, and particularly in Los Angeles it's what we're known for."

Not that a trial involving a dead celebrity, even one as revered as Jackson was, is completely unprecedented. In 1981 a Tennessee jury found Dr. George Nichopoulos not guilty of negligently prescribing drugs to Elvis Presley, whose body contained 14 different stimulants and depressants when he died in 1977.

But, relatively speaking, nobody paid much attention to that.

"That was another age, a much more innocent time," says Los Angeles media consultant Jonathan Taplin. "You didn't have a 24-7 media machine that feeds on celebrity, that feeds on raising up celebrities and then bringing them down."

It also occurred outside of Los Angeles, a media hotbed for sensational celebrity trial coverage since an August night in 1969 when a band of Charles Manson's social misfits broke into Sharon Tate's home and stabbed the actress and her friends to death.

Since then there have been the trials of actor Blake, acquitted of shooting his wife to death after taking her to dinner at his favorite Italian restaurant; of pioneering pop music producer Spector, convicted of fatally shooting actress Lana Clarkson after meeting her at a nightclub; and the grandaddy of them all, Simpson's acquittal of stabbing his ex-wife and her friend to death.

AP

Conrad Murray, left, prepares to go into custody as his attorney Ed Chernoff looks on during Murray's arraignment on charges of involuntary manslaughter in singer Michael Jackson's death at the Airport Courthouse in Los Angeles on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

Even Jackson's own trial in nearby Santa Barbara County in 2005, during which he was acquitted of child-molestation charges, rates high on the celebrity scale, with fans marveling as he danced atop his SUV outside the courthouse one day and showed up in his pajamas on another.

Just how the Jackson doctor trial, in which Murray is charged with involuntary manslaughter, will stack up against those depends on some intangibles.

If the judge who hears the case decides to let TV cameras into the courtroom, for example, that will likely ratchet up interest quite a bit.

"We have a somewhat interesting example of that in the Phil Spector case," said former federal prosecutor Jean Rosenbluth.

Spector was tried twice for murder, his first trial ending with a hung jury.

With cameras allowed into the courtroom, people tuned in to watch as Spector arrived each day in his funny wigs and 1960s-style mod clothes. But when cameras were banned from the second trial interest waned until the verdict came in.

"Michael Jackson is Phil Spector times 2 million," laughed Rosenbluth, adding the King of Pop's influence was so great and his death at age 50 so devastating to his worldwide fan base that interest could be huge.

There are already more than a dozen Jackson Facebook fan groups, in several languages, with titles like "I Hate Conrad Murray" and "Arrest Conrad Murray." On Twitter, the Murray tweets from news organizations and private citizens alike pour forth by the minute.

As big as Jackson was, though, it seems doubtful his doctor's case can overshadow Simpson's murder trial.

For one thing, notes critical studies professor Todd Boyd, who has written extensively on pop culture and race relations, there's no divisive racial issue this time, as there was when Simpson's lawyers argued he was framed by a racist police officer who planted a bloody glove at his house.

For another, a lot of people thought going into that trial Simpson was guilty. He had had numerous domestic disputes with his ex-wife before she and her friend were violently ambushed outside her home.

Murray on the other hand is accused of accidentally killing Jackson by administering a powerful sedative, which Boyd said likely lessens some of the emotion.

"It's not as though some person came to take Michael Jackson's life," he said. "This is a case where a doctor is simply being charged with malpractice and by extension manslaughter."

## Kerrigan family disputes autopsy report on father

**BOSTON** (AP)—The family of Olympic skater Nancy Kerrigan insisted Tuesday that they do "not blame anyone" for her father's death and criticized a medical examiner's finding that Daniel Kerrigan died of a heart rhythm problem after a fight with his son.

Daniel Kerrigan's death was ruled a homicide by a state medical examiner.

The findings could prompt new charges against Nancy Kerrigan's brother, Mark, 45, who has pleaded not guilty to assault and battery on an elderly person and is undergoing a psychiatric evaluation.

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone said Tuesday that an autopsy determined the cause of death was "cardiac dysrhythmia" after a physical altercation with neck compression that damaged Kerrigan's windpipe. The findings also noted that Kerrigan, 70, had high blood pressure and clogged heart arteries.

Several hours later, Kerrigan's family issued a statement through their attorney, Tracey Miner, calling the findings both "premature and inaccurate."

"The Kerrigan family is extremely disappointed that the medical examiner would release a cause of death without having all of the relevant facts," Miner said in the statement.

"The Kerrigan family does not blame anyone for the unfortunate death of Dan Kerrigan, who had a pre-existing heart condition."

The statement did not give details on Kerrigan's heart condition, nor did it elaborate on what facts the medical examiner might not have had. Miner did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Daniel Kerrigan died Jan. 24 after what authorities said was a struggle with his son.

Police say Mark Kerrigan told them he put his hands around his father's neck and his father fell to the floor after the two argued at their Stoneham home.

Family members had initially said Daniel Kerrigan had a heart attack and his death was unrelated to the argument.

"As a result of these conclusions of the medical examiner, the investigation into Daniel Kerrigan's death, and whether any charges in connection with his death are appropriate, remains ongoing," Leone said in a statement.

The findings imply a strangulation-type injury in a man already vulnerable to heart problems, said an expert not connected with the autopsy, Dr. Ian Paul, associate medical examiner for the state of New Mexico.

"The assault itself would have caused significant physiological stress," Paul said. "It would have put direct stress to the heart itself because the heart is working faster, and in somebody with underlying heart disease, they would be at a much greater risk of experiencing sudden cardiac death."

Cardiac dysrhythmia is loss or interruption of a normal heartbeat, which can lead to cardiac arrest and death.

Denise Moore, an attorney who represented Mark Kerrigan at his arraignment, declined to comment on the autopsy report. Moore said previously that Kerrigan, an Army veteran who had served overseas, was on medication for post-traumatic stress syndrome and was seeing a psychiatrist.

Janice Bassil, Kerrigan's new attorney, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Daniel Kerrigan was found unconscious on the floor of his home by police responding to an emergency call at 1:30 a.m. He was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

Police said Mark Kerrigan appeared intoxicated when he was found on a couch in the basement of the home. He was "belligerent and combative" but coherent when questioned, police said.

"He stated that he wanted to use the phone and his father would not let him," the arresting officer wrote in a report. "He said he struggled with his father and put his hands around his father's neck and his father fell to the floor."

The officers said they saw blood near where Daniel Kerrigan had been treated by emergency workers and signs of a struggle, including three pictures that had apparently been knocked off a wall and a broken piece of the telephone.

Mark Kerrigan has a lengthy criminal record, with convictions dating to 1991, including drunken driving, assault and battery, domestic assaults, resisting arrest and violation of a restraining order.

In 2008, Kerrigan's parents sued him to recover $105,000 they had spent paying his mortgage at his Wilmington home, taking care of his dogs while he was in jail and paying for a lawyer who represented him on a 2006 assault conviction. A judge dismissed the lawsuit, saying there was no documentation of such an agreement.

He was released from county jail in November after serving time on an assault conviction.

AP

This Feb. 10, 1994 file photo shows Daniel and Brenda Kerrigan, parents of 1994 Olympics silver medalist Nancy Kerrigan, outside their home in Stoneham, Mass.

# Leno to Letterman: Thanks for Super Bowl ad invite

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jay Leno has a message for David Letterman: Thanks.

Leno said that "whatever happened in the last 18 years disappeared" when the two comics got together to film their surprise Super Bowl ad last week.

"He was very gracious," Leno said Monday on his prime-time show, which ends Tuesday. "We talked about the old days. We told some jokes. It was really good to see him."

Letterman's bitterness at losing the "Tonight" show job to Leno nearly two decades ago has long been obvious to his CBS viewers. Leno is a frequent target of Letterman's jokes, which escalated during last month's drama over Leno reclaiming the "Tonight" show. Leno returned fire when the jokes got particularly rough.

AP

In an file photo from video provided by CBS, David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey and Jay Leno, from right, record a promo for CBS' "Late Show" that aired during the broadcast of the NFL football Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

It was a perfect setup for the Super Bowl promo. A grumpy Letterman complained to Oprah Winfrey about being at a lousy Super Bowl party, and the camera panned back to reveal Leno on the other side of a couch, saying, "he's just saying that because I'm here."

"No matter what animosity there is between comedians, a good joke is a good joke," Leno said.

Letterman, for his part, joked in his monologue about his mother wondering who it was sitting on the couch with Winfrey and Leno.

"People really thought this was big-time stuff, so I just want to take a second here now to thank the actors who played Oprah and also Jay Leno," he said on his show Monday. "They did a tremendous job."

Leno, a notorious workaholic, took a day off from his show to fly to New York to make the 15-second promo. He was driven to Letterman's studio on a black SUV and hustled in, wearing a disguise.

Leno said an NBC executive later approached him, saying the network believed Letterman was taping a secret show because someone entered the studio from a black SUV. NBC believed that Letterman was doing a show with President Barack Obama, he said.

"I said, `keep me posted,'" Leno said.

## Jay Leno ends his NBC prime-time experiment

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The television season's biggest flop is over, ushered out without sentiment by Jay Leno.

NBC's "The Jay Leno Show" ended quietly on Tuesday, doomed by bad ratings and bad vibes.

Leno was told "you're fired" by Donald Trump. But Leno will return to the "Tonight" show after the Olympics.

In his monologue, Leno said it seems like just yesterday he was telling NBC this was not going to work.

Leno also joked the show was supposed be on for two years but he got five months for good behavior.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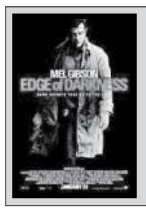
From Paris With Love

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:15 | 7:25 | 9:30 |
| Saturday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:25 | 9:30 |
| Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:25 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:15 | 7:25 | |

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers star in the spy thriller From Paris With Love for District B13's helmer Pierre Morel and EuropaCorp. The Luc Besson/Adi Hasak-penned tale revolves around the entwining paths of an American spy and an embassy worker during a tumultuous time in Paris.

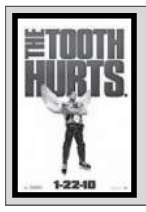


Edge of Darkness

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:10 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Saturday | 1:20 | 4:10 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Sunday | 1:20 | 4:10 | 7:30 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:10 | 7:30 | |

Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Mystery • Rated R

Synopsis
Casino Royale's Martin Campbell returns to familiar territory with this adaptation of his own 1985 BBC miniseries—a mystery starring Mel Gibson as a detective looking into his political-activist daughter's death and uncovering layers of governmental conspiracies in the process. William Monahan (The Departed) provides the screenplay for the GK Films production, co-starring Ray Winstone and Danny Huston.



The Tooth Fairy

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:45 |
| Saturday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:45 |
| Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:55 |
| Saturday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:55 |
| Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:05 | 7:05 | |

Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR

The Spy Next Door

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:30 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Saturday | 1:10 | 4:30 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Sunday | 1:10 | 4:30 | 7:20 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:30 | 7:20 | |

Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

The Book of Eli

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:40 |
| Saturday | 1:30 | 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:40 |
| Sunday | 1:30 | 4:20 | 7:10 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 4:20 | 7:10 | |

Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

Avatar

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 3:55 | 6:55 | 10:00 |
| Saturday | 12:50 | 3:55 | 6:55 | 10:00 |
| Sunday | 12:50 | 3:55 | 6:55 | |
| Mon thru Thurs | | 3:55 | 6:55 | |

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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# Jamie Foxx delivers music, instruments to kids

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Jamie Foxx wanted to entertain a group of musically inclined high school students with a few bars from his Grammy winning hit, "Blame It."

But since the song is an ode to the effects of alcohol, he changed the lyrics to "Blame it on the a-a-a-apple juice." The kids roared.

"I changed it so you guys could sing it," he joked.

Students from four high schools gathered Tuesday at Walt Disney Concert Hall, where Foxx helped present new violins, flutes, French horns, trumpets and drums valued at $500,000 to students from 16 schools nationwide.

The instruments are part of the Fidelity FutureStage program, an effort by the investment firm to enrich arts education in public schools.

Founded in 2006, the program provides instruments, specialized training by professional musicians, and a chance for aspiring artists to perform with renowned orchestras such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Boston Pops.

AP

Actor and musician Jamie Foxx, left, poses alongside high school students from Renaissance Arts Academy in Los Angeles who had just received new musical instruments, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2010, at Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

Foxx told students he began as a classical pianist and eventually won a scholarship to study the instrument in college.

"That allowed me to come to L.A. and work on my craft," he said. "Then I went into acting and comedy, and then it was Ray Charles ..."

Foxx, 42, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of Charles in "Ray," got the crowd fired up and had them chanting "music, mu-sic" before students came on stage to accept shiny new saxophones, clarinets and other instruments.

# Lil Wayne NY sentencing put off for dental surgery

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After rap star Lil Wayne spent months bidding farewell to his fans and his freedom, what loomed for him Tuesday was a dental chair, not a house of detention.

His sentencing in a weapons case was postponed so he could have dental surgery before going to jail.

Lil Wayne, one of music's biggest sellers and rap's hottest stars, is now due to be sentenced on March 2. His plea deal calls for a one-year term in a city jail, though good behavior could shave that to about eight months.

The rapper—who once told TV interviewer Jimmy Kimmel that his jewel-encrusted teeth had cost him $150,000—said nothing at a brief court session. He left in a black SUV, flanked by fellow rapper Birdman and others.

Defense lawyer Stacey Richman said Lil Wayne was headed home to Miami for dental work Friday. She declined to specify his malady.

"It is a medical situation that, like (it would for) any of us, has to be addressed," she said outside court.

She said the rapper had planned to take care of it before Tuesday but his dentist had been out of the country doing charitable work.

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon didn't fight the rapper's request to push back his sentencing, saying she had spoken to the dentist.

Lil Wayne, 27, pleaded guilty in October to a charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon, admitting he illegally had a loaded .40-caliber semi-automatic gun on his tour bus in July 2007. Police found the weapon when they stopped the bus after a Manhattan concert.

The sentence comes at the peak of the rapper's career, which netted him the best-selling album of 2008, "Tha Carter III," a nod to his real name, Dwayne Carter.

He reinforced his place in rap's pantheon with a commanding performance at the Grammy Awards ceremony Jan. 31. His latest album, "Rebirth," was released two days later and was the top-selling album on iTunes last week.

He has been publicly girding for his incarceration with a series of goodbyes, including what he called a farewell tour in recent months and a recent Rolling Stone cover story in which he said he considered jail "an experience that I need to have if God's putting me through it."

# Fans delighted by DeGeneres' 'American Idol' debut

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres (dih-JEN'-ur-us) hit the right notes with "American Idol" viewers.

Fans took to the Internet to express their pleasant surprise over the funnylady's debut as the singing competition's fourth judge. DeGeneres assumed her new post for Tuesday's episode chronicling the first round of "Hollywood Week," the cutthroat post-audition phase in which 181 contestants will be narrowed down to 24 semifinalists.

Most folks posting about DeGeneres on the social networking Web site praised the talk show host's performance. Some admitted they were only tuned in because she was added judge.

In this undated publicity image released by Fox, new "American Idol," judge Ellen DeGeneres is shown.

AP

# Lohans back in NY court over child support

**WESTBURY, N.Y.** (AP)—Actress Lindsay Lohan's estranged parents are still feuding.

Dina and Michael Lohan were in Nassau County Family Court on Long Island in a dispute over child-support payments Tuesday. Dina Lohan claims her ex-husband is late on child support for their two minor children, Ali and Cody.

Following the closed-door session, Michael Lohan told reporters the discussion was amicable and said he will do what is necessary to support his children. Neither said how much money is involved.

The two are due back in court on March 24.

# SI swimsuit edition puts Roddick's wife on cover

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Model Brooklyn Decker landed the coveted Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover this year.

The 22-year-old wife of tennis star Andy Roddick said being chosen for the cover, on newsstands Tuesday, is "the news of a lifetime."

The cover photo of Decker smiling in a yellow bikini is a departure from the more sultry look that SI had gone for the past few years, she said. She compared it to covers from the 1980s or '90s, when Elle Macpherson won her covers with a friendly, sun-loving look.

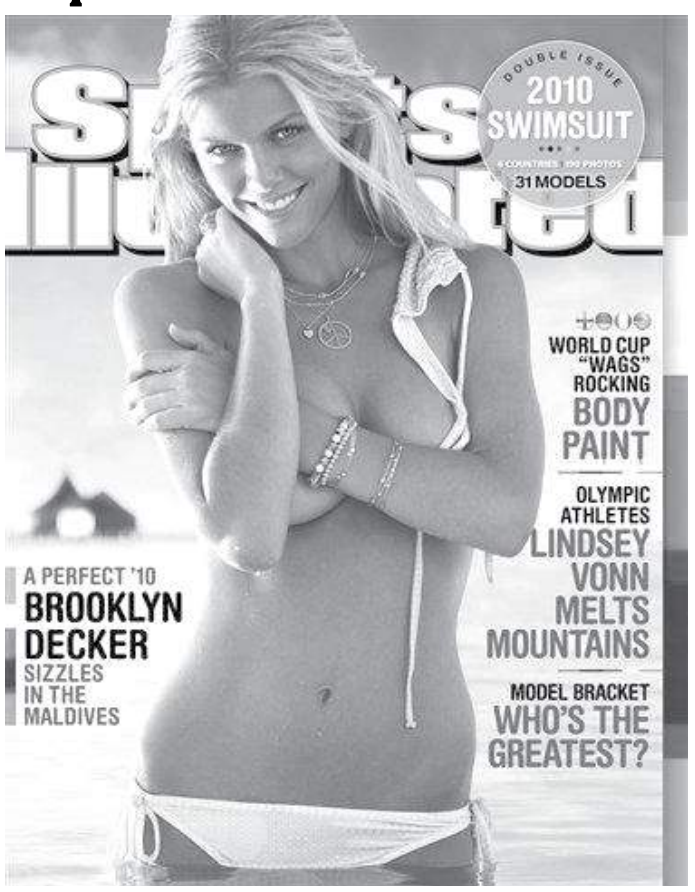
SI keeps the cover photo a secret—even from the models—until less than 24 hours before it's revealed. Decker said now the mad dash was on to find outfits for TV appearances that will come with the gig. (Her closet of swimsuits wasn't right for winter, she joked.)

As for Roddick? He's relieved the five-time SI Swimsuit model can check the cover-girl box and won't be as nervous next February when the next edition comes out.

Decker says she is an avid sports fan, and, as a teenager in North Carolina, ran hurdles for the track team, played soccer and participated in competitive cheerleading. She has no great diet or exercise secret, she said, other than to be active and eat sensibly.

"I still don't know the formula for the cover," she added. "It's luck, the perfect suit and perfect storm to get it."

Decker said, though, that because Sports Illustrated encourages a natural look—less makeup, toned muscles, curvy shape—it's easier to get a great photograph. "This celebrates the girls and their personalities. I think it's why they get such beautiful pictures."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2010 SWIMSUIT
31 MODELS
WORLD CUP "WAGS" ROCKING BODY PAINT
OLYMPIC ATHLETES LINDSEY VONN MELTS MOUNTAINS
MODEL BRACKET WHO'S THE GREATEST?
A PERFECT '10 BROOKLYN DECKER SIZZLES IN THE MALDIVES

AP

An image provided by Sports Illustrated shows the cover of the 2010 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition featuring model Brooklyn Decker, on sale now.

# Cruise suits up for 'Mission: Impossible IV'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Tom Cruise is starring in another impossible mission.

Paramount Pictures announced Tuesday that Cruise will be back in front of the camera for "Mission: Impossible IV," due in theaters over Memorial Day weekend in 2011.

Cruise and "Mission: Impossible III" director J.J. Abrams previously agreed to produce a fourth movie in the action franchise. But it had not been known if Cruise would star again.

Abrams will stick to producing this time, with the search on for a director to shoot the new installment. Josh Applebaum and Andre Nemec are writing the script, based on a story idea from Cruise and Abrams.

The movie reunites Cruise and Paramount, which cut the actor loose from a long-term development deal in 2006.

# Beyonce, Alicia Keys shoot music video in Rio slum

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (AP)—Grammy Award-winning singers Beyonce and Alicia Keys are filming a music video in Rio de Janeiro.

Sheri Ladner is a publicist with RCA Music Group, which includes Keys' label, J Records. She says the singers are shooting a video for their duet "Put It In a Love Song." The song is from Keys' recently released album "The Element of Freedom."

Brazilian television on Tuesday showed the singers performing together in front of cameras in the Morro da Conceicao shantytown. Ladner says the video will have scenes recorded at several locations across Rio.

Keys already filmed one segment in Rio's Dona Marta slum. That shantytown became renowned worldwide after Michael Jackson went there to film the 1996 video "They Don't Care About Us."

AP

Singer Beyonce is seen as she joins the recording of Alicia Keys' music video "Put It In a Love Song" at the Praca Maua square, in Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010.

# Man prefers to play host instead of being a guest

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Kent," and I enjoy entertaining. We often throw birthday parties for friends, as well as holiday parties and dinners and barbecues during the summer. The problem is, whenever we receive an invitation to attend a gathering at someone else's home, Kent responds with, "Ask them to come here." I think this is rude because our friends are just reciprocating.

This issue came up twice last week. When I asked Kent why he doesn't like to go to our friends' homes, he says he prefers to entertain in his own house. I don't think it is good manners to ask a host to move the party to our home.

Incidentally, when we do go, Kent always enjoys himself, so it's not social anxiety, and he's definitely not shy. Would you tell me if I'm making too much of this?

EMBARRASSED IN ALASKA

**DEAR EMBARRASSED: I don't think so. While your husband's impulse to host the party might seem generous the first few times the offer is extended—after a while the burden of gratitude can hang heavy and destroy friendships. That's why it is important for people to be able to reciprocate—and for others to allow them to.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating a man for four years. I told him I am ready to end our relationship if he isn't ready to get married within the next year.

Two months ago, he gave me a beautiful 2 1/2-carat diamond ring and announced to family and friends that we are engaged. He has not discussed any wedding plans, but he says the wedding will be within the time frame I am asking for.

I went to a jeweler today to have the band on my ring enlarged a bit and was told that my stone is not a real diamond. Abby, this man owns his own business and is wealthy! He spends thousands on golf trips every year and just spent a great deal of money on high-end house furnishings.

My head is spinning. I am embarrassed to tell anyone of this fraud. What is your take on this? Do I confront him? Am I fooling myself thinking that this man truly wants to marry me?

DUMBFOUNDED OR JUST DUMB? IN FLORIDA

**DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: My "take" on this is that your fiance was trying to pull a fast one. If he would behave this way about your engagement ring, what else would he be less than honest about in the future?**

**Whether you "confront" him or not depends upon how you define the word. If it were me, I'd remain calm, tell him what I'd learned and how, listen to what he had to say and take my cue from that.**

**DEAR ABBY:** Please remind your readers that a nice thing to do on Valentine's Day is to go to a veteran's hospital to visit the veterans who are there—especially those from World War II, whose numbers are dwindling. The wards generally have parties going on for them. Try to attend. You'll find a group of very appreciative people there.

SERVICE OFFICER,
AMERICAN LEGION POST IN MAINE

**DEAR OFFICER: Thank you for a terrific suggestion. Valentine's Day—with all the marketing that goes with it—can be one of the most depressing days of the year for singles. A sure way to keep the blues away is to do something nice for someone else. What you're proposing not only fits that category, but also provides a way to meet other generous-hearted people. What better way to spend this coming Sunday afternoon?**

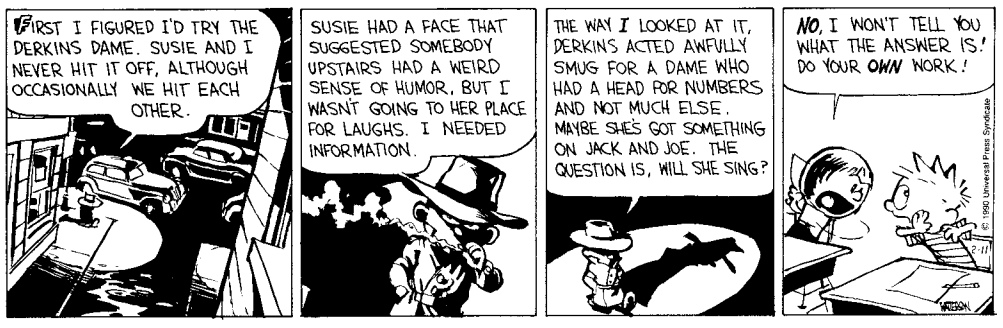
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FIRST I FIGURED I'D TRY THE DERKINS DAME. SUSIE AND I NEVER HIT IT OFF, ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY WE HIT EACH OTHER.
SUSIE HAD A FACE THAT SUGGESTED SOMEBODY UPSTAIRS HAD A WEIRD SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT I WASN'T GOING TO HER PLACE FOR LAUGHS. I NEEDED INFORMATION.
THE WAY I LOOKED AT IT, DERKINS ACTED AWFULLY SMUG FOR A DAME WHO HAD A HEAD FOR NUMBERS AND NOT MUCH ELSE. MAYBE SHE'S GOT SOMETHING ON JACK AND JOE. THE QUESTION IS, WILL SHE SING?
NO, I WON'T TELL YOU WHAT THE ANSWER IS! DO YOUR OWN WORK!
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WATTERSON

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

OKAY, I'M READY TO GO OUT!
NO PLAID
HOW ABOUT NOW?
NO TIE-DYE
I TOLD YOU, NO UGLY ANYTHING
POOF! THERE WENT THE WHOLE WARDROBE
JIM DAVIS 2-11
www.garfield.com
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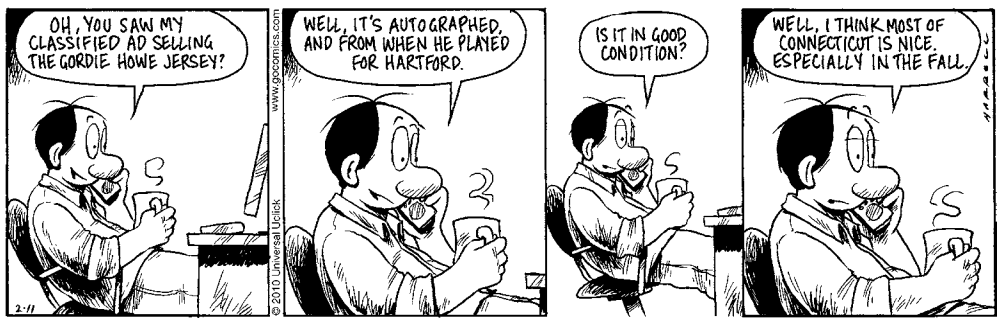
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH, YOU SAW MY CLASSIFIED AD SELLING THE GORDIE HOWE JERSEY?
WELL, IT'S AUTOGRAPHED, AND FROM WHEN HE PLAYED FOR HARTFORD.
IS IT IN GOOD CONDITION?
WELL, I THINK MOST OF CONNECTICUT IS NICE. ESPECIALLY IN THE FALL.
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© 2010 Universal Uclick
2-11

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S MY FOOT LOOK, DOC?
SORRY. THIS IS OUT OF MY AREA OF SPECIALTY.
BUT YOU'RE A PODIATRIST!
I'M JUST A GENERAL PODIATRIST.
I'M SENDING YOU TO A PINKY-TOE SPECIALIST.
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## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Fungus product
5 Enthusiast
8 Small combo
12 Duel tool
13 Blond shade
14 Maintained
15 Approach
16 Crossword clue abbr.
17 Regulation
18 Green
20 Ids' counterparts
22 Beach pastime
26 Normand or Mercer
29 Sweet potato
30 Greet the villain
31 Hawkish Olympian
32 Energy
33 Spill the beans
34 Roulette bet
35 Garfield's owner
36 Kid napped?
37 SoCal teen of the 1980s
40 Tittle
41 Inconsequential person
45 Decline
47 31-Across, e.g.
49 Curved molding
50 With 46-Down, well in the past
51 Lamb's mommy
52 Caspian Sea feeder
53 Dresses in
54 Harrison or Reed
55 Vend

**DOWN**
1 Options list
2 Admitting clients
3 Mad king of literature
4 Develops (from)
5 Belly-button
6 — Today
7 Early hour
8 Pulsate
9 Having a second life?
10 Under the weather
11 Worshipper's writing
19 Vote seeker
21 Workout venue
23 Fibbing
24 Burden
25 Earring site
26 Sportscaster Albert
27 Vicinity
28 Sheets
32 It was launched in 1977
33 Round, as a nose
35 Lustrous black
36 "No seats" abbr.
38 Windblown soil
39 Alphabetized list
42 Fairy tale villain
43 Option from Howie Mandel
44 Scream
45 Bankroll
46 See 50-Across
48 Have bills

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | W | L | | | P | A | M | | | |
| | F | L | E | A | | Y | U | L | E | S | | |
| N | A | I | A | D | | A | R | I | S | E | S | |
| E | V | E | R | Y | W | H | I | C | H | W | A | Y |
| T | E | N | | B | I | O | M | E | | A | L | E |
| | | | A | U | T | O | | | A | G | E | S |
| | D | O | U | G | H | | B | A | B | E | S | |
| D | E | C | K | | | B | O | S | S | | | |
| N | A | E | | T | R | O | O | P | | B | R | A |
| A | L | L | O | V | E | R | T | H | E | L | O | T |
| | T | O | U | S | L | E | | A | B | U | S | E |
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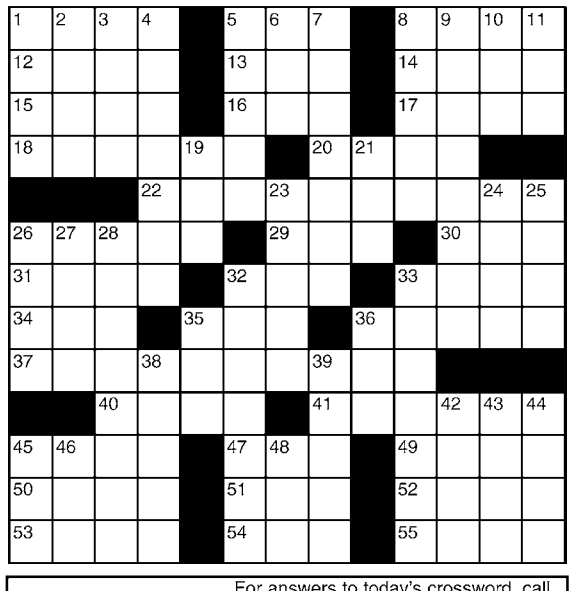
| | | | S | T | Y | | | T | N | T | | |

Yesterday's answer 2-11



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Taylor Lautner, 18; Kelly Rowland, 29; Jennifer Aniston, 41; Sheryl Crow, 48

**Happy Birthday**: Motivation will be all it takes to get ahead. Your staying power and discipline will be high this year, so accomplishing some of your long term goals will be possible. A giant push to help others will bring you the same in return. An interesting relationship will develop, broadening your horizons and lifting your spirits. Your numbers are 2, 5, 17, 24, 30, 39, 43

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Your decisions should be based on what's best for you. Jealousy and feeling guilty are a waste of time. Reconnect with someone you miss or who can contribute to your life by reinforcing some of your old goals and ideas. ✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Slow down and take your time or you will end up involved in something that results in unwanted consequences. Love is on the rise but getting involved with someone you have had a bad experience with in the past will only lead to more sorrow. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Participating in social or business events will bring you in contact with someone interested in your ideas and plans. Your ability to converse and work a room will pay off. Before you know it, there will be an opportunity to consider. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): If you don't make your move, you won't be able to take advantage of what's being offered. Your timing must be impeccable if you want to get ahead at this time. Waffling will lead to disappointment. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The competition is great and, although you do have some great ideas, so will others. You can form a partnership with someone you feel can complement what you have to offer. Being a team player will put you in a leadership position. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A problem within your relationship will occur if you have been all work and no play. If you neglect what's really important, uncertainty will develop. You will find a solution if you listen to the complaints being made. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Everyone will be in your corner. Love is on the rise and the people you are with can change your future. Let everyone know what you want and what your intentions are. Once you establish your position, the rest will fall into place. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If you aren't being honest with yourself, it's hard for others to help or to be honest with you. Follow your dreams, don't be afraid to be open about your intentions and plans and focus on the positive. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A trip or gathering will lead to talks about future projects and how you can contribute. Love and romance are in the stars. Someone who makes an unexpected, last-minute change will catch you off guard. Protect your home and your assets. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let anyone push you around. Demands and ultimatums should be tossed aside. Reasonable talks and suggestions will help to calm the waters and bring everyone to the same conclusion. Diplomacy will win. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An old friend or lover is likely to surface but keep your guard up—nothing has changed. Past experience will guide you now and save you from making the same mistake twice. Choose the people with whom you can associate successfully. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may be offered help but it will be at a price. Before you get involved in something new, find out what's expected of you. A partnership may intrigue you and even sound good, but if talks become pushy, back off immediately. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You surprise others with your uniqueness. You are innovative, inventive and creative and you strive to excel.

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 1 | | 7 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 |
| | | | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | 9 | | 2 | | | |
| | 7 | 1 | | | | 2 | 9 | |
| | | | 8 | | 6 | | | |
| | | | | 9 | | | | |
| 4 | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | | 7 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**UNJAMMING THE PHOTOCOPIER** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | D | E | R | K | M | A | N | U | A | L | F | E | S | E |
| E | E | E | S | A | C | B | O | P | E | N | V | R | S | N |
| N | L | C | G | A | E | U | I | U | T | O | I | R | E | D |
| I | P | D | H | D | E | L | T | E | H | N | E | S | C | E |
| H | M | L | N | N | E | L | C | S | S | V | O | L | C | G |
| C | U | L | A | A | I | W | E | E | E | O | A | R | A | G |
| A | R | U | R | Y | H | C | R | R | L | S | L | S | F | O |
| M | C | P | O | E | E | T | I | I | P | O | I | C | F | L |
| N | R | U | O | T | N | R | D | A | N | G | C | L | F | C |
| O | I | S | D | T | O | O | S | O | N | K | A | A | U | S |
| I | A | H | P | L | H | C | T | A | C | S | L | R | T | T |
| T | P | Y | L | R | O | N | L | Ⓢ | Ⓗ | Ⓤ | Ⓣ | E | S | E |
| C | E | E | A | V | E | H | T | I | G | H | T | P | D | A |
| E | R | S | E | R | O | S | N | E | S | T | R | A | P | D |
| S | P | R | O | P | T | G | S | G | N | I | R | P | S | Y |

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Access, Catch, Clasp, Clear, Clogged, Close, Cover, Crumpled, Direction, Door, Flashing, Free, Front, Handle, Hold, Insert, Layers, Locate, Loosen, Machine, Manual, Open, Paper, Parts, Press, Prop, Pull, Push, Release, Repair, Reverse, Rollers, Section, Sensor, Shove, Shut, Signal, Spring, Steady, Stuck, Stuff, Technician, Tight, Toner, Tray, Wedged, Wrinkled

**Yesterday's Answer: Premium**

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Basket case

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DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's s
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't accommodate 'overstayers'
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
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| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
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| • 5-Liner | $24 | $39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $24 | $42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $36 | $57 |

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**Classified Ads**

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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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**WHATZIT?™**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**baskkkket**

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**Find today's solution in this section**

# Anthony returns from injury to help Denver win

**DENVER** (AP)—Carmelo Anthony got an unexpected breather in his return from an ankle injury.

Anthony, who missed the previous eight games with a sprained left ankle, scored 19 points before joining other Denver starters on the bench for the fourth quarter as the Nuggets had their most lopsided win of the season, 127-91 against the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

"The good thing is my first game back, I didn't have to do too much," Anthony said. "But the bad thing is, I already had been sitting out for two weeks. I wanted to play (more), but I'll take a 36-point win any day."

The victory margin against a Dallas team that Denver eliminated in last season's semifinal round of the playoffs surpassed the Nuggets' previous high of 28 points, which they achieved twice in wins against Toronto and New Jersey in November.

Though Denver beat Dallas for the sixth time in seven meetings, the Mavericks defeated the Nuggets in their previous encounter in December at the Pepsi Center, dealing one of the Nuggets' four losses in 27 home games this season.

"We didn't expect to beat a good team like that by that amount of points, but we came out and played well from the beginning," Anthony said. "Everybody got involved. Everybody was on the same page. We knew in the back of our mind how important this game was."

And even though he was rested in the fourth quarter, Anthony said he played long enough to know that he has no lingering problems from the ankle sprain that he suffered Jan. 23 against New Orleans.

"I approached this game wanting to see what I could and couldn't do, and I found out I could do pretty much what I've been doing," said Anthony, the NBA's second-leading scorer.

Nene led Denver with 21 points, Chauncey Billups added 16 and Chris Andersen had 14 points to go with 10 rebounds. Rarely used reserves Malik Allen (six points) and Johan Petro (13 points) combined for 19 points while playing in place of Kenyon Martin, who sat out because of tendinitis in his left knee.

"We knew we were going to be a little short-handed with K-Mart being out," Billups said. "But we have so many different lineups we can play, so many different guys who can play well together."

Dallas was led by Dirk Nowitzki with 17 points but also had to deal with its own injuries and a difficult back-to-back, arriving in Denver earlier Tuesday morning after beating the Golden State Warriors in Oakland the night before.

"I'm disappointed, but it was a tough turnaround, difficult situation," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said.

Jason Terry had 16 points and Josh Howard 14 for Dallas, which was without Shawn Marion because of lower back tightness. The Mavericks already were without Erik Dampier, who has missed three of the last four games because of a left knee injury.

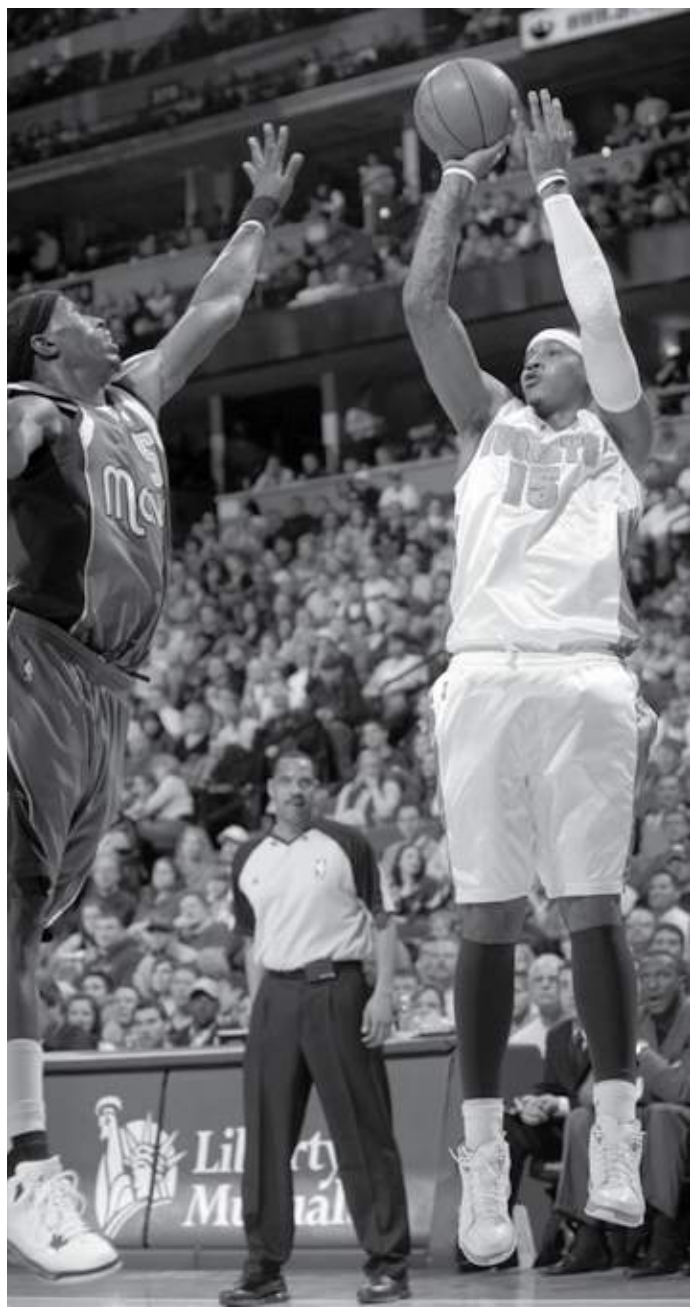
"Dampier's a very important part of our team," Carlisle said. "Not having him tonight, it makes it a lot tougher with guys like Nene and the Birdman (Andersen). Shawn's situation tonight contributed. We need to get ourselves healthy coming out of the (All-Star) break. I like this team. We've had struggles, but we're going to keep pushing."

Up by 65-39 at the half, the Nuggets pulled ahead 78-46, connecting on three 3s in a row, two by Arron Afflalo and the third by Anthony.

The Mavericks tried to get back in the game with a 14-5 run but Denver answered with a 7-0 burst touched off by a pair of baskets by Anthony, pulling in front 90-60 with 3:13 remaining in the third quarter and taking a 103-70 lead into the final period.

At halftime, the Nuggets led 65-39.

Dallas managed to pull to 49-35 on a three-point play by Nowitzki with 4:13 left in the second quarter but the Nuggets scored 16 of the next 20 points leading up to the break. Nene had five points in the flurry, including a three-point play in which he muscled in a layup underhanded as Kidd grabbed his arm. Billups' culminated the spree by hitting consecutive 3-pointers in the final seconds of the period.



AP

Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, goes up for a shot over Dallas Mavericks forward Josh Howard in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 127-91 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010.

### Thunder 89, Trail Blazers 77

In Portland, Oregon, Kevin Durant had 33 points and 11 rebounds to help Oklahoma City extend its season-high winning streak to six games with a victory over Portland.

It's the 25th straight game that Durant has scored 25 or more points—the longest streak since Allen Iverson did it in 27 consecutive games during the 2000-01 season.

Jeff Green scored 17 points as Oklahoma City ended a four-game losing streak to Portland.

Andre Miller scored 22 points to lead the Trail Blazers, who committed 24 turnovers and shot only .403.

### Hawks 108, Grizzlies 94

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jamal Crawford scored 28 points, including fourth 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, to help Atlanta pull away from Memphis.

Crawford scored 14 points in the final period, and was 5 of 7 from 3-point range in the game.

Josh Smith added 17 for the Hawks, who snapped a three-game road losing steak and closed back within a game of Orlando in the fight for leadership of the Southeast Division.

All-Star forward Zach Randolph had 20 points for Memphis, which enters the All-Star break on a four-game losing steak.

### Jazz 109, Clippers 99

In Los Angeles, Utah won its ninth straight, downing Los Angeles.

Carlos Boozer had 34 points and 14 rebounds, going 13 for 17 from the field. First-time All-Star Deron Williams added 13 points and 11 assists.

Chris Kaman, who was named to his first All-Star game on Sunday, had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost seven of eight.

### Heat 99, Rockets 66

In Miami, the hosts raced to their biggest halftime lead of the season and emphatically ended a run of five straight defeats by routing Houston.

The Heat shot 13 for 15 during a 9-1/2-minute stretch in the first half and led 56-31 at halftime.

Dwyane Wade had 17 points and seven assists before sitting out the fourth quarter.

The Rockets shot just 30 percent, including 4 for 18 from 3-point range, and their point total was a season low. Luis Scola led with only 12 points.

### Cavaliers 104, Nets 97

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 32 points to lead Cleveland to its 12th straight win, downing hapless New Jersey in a mismatch of the league's best and worst teams.

The win gives Cleveland the longest winning streak in the NBA this season. James was 13-of-21 from the field with 11 assists and three rebounds. Jawad Willams scored a career-high 17 points.

New Jersey lost their seventh straight despite 24 points from Courtney Lee.

### Bulls 109, Pacers 101

In Indianapolis, Luol Deng had 23 points and 11 rebounds to lead Chicago over Indiana.

Derrick Rose and John Salmons each scored 21 for the Bulls, who shot 51 percent from the field.

Danny Granger had 27 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who blew a five-point lead by shooting just 33 percent in the fourth quarter.

### Bobcats 94, Wizards 92

In Charlotte, South Carolina, Raymond Felton hit a fadeaway 12-footer with 1.9 seconds left to lift Charlotte past Washington.

Antawn Jamison missed a scoop shot in the key at the buzzer for the Wizards.

Stephen Jackson scored 22 points for Charlotte, which won its first game in four.

### Pistons 93, Bucks 81

In Milwaukee, Tayshaun Prince, Rodney Stuckey and Ben Gordon scored 18 points each to lead Detroit over Milwaukee.

Leading 64-62 going into the fourth, the Bucks tied it twice before a 16-6 run turned the game decisively in the Pistons' favor.

Brandon Jennings scored 18 points for the Bucks.

### Kings 118, Knicks 114, OT

In New York, Tyreke Evans led a thrilling fourth-quarter comeback before Sacramento beat New York in overtime, ending a six-game losing skid.

Evans finished with 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, scoring 12 points in the final 7 minutes of regulation after the Knicks had built a 15-point lead.

Kevin Martin scored nine of his 17 points in overtime for the Kings.

Wilson Chandler scored a career-high 35 points for the Knicks, who have lost three straight.

### 76ers 119, Timberwolves 97

In Philadelphia, the hosts got a strong performance from the bench to defeat Minnesota.

Andre Iguodala scored 24 points and Elton Brand added 21. Missing Allen Iverson, who has been out for four games to tend to his ill daughter, the Sixers saw four bench players score nine points or better to help record a fifth straight win.

The game was played before a sparse crowd who braved the area's second major snowstorm in less than a week.

Wayne Ellington led Minnesota with 16 points.

# Wizards stranded again after 2nd snowstorm

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—Eventually the Washington Wizards will make it home.

Tuesday night? No such luck.

The Wizards were told before their game against Charlotte that it was unlikely they'd be able to fly into either Washington-area airport after the game because of the second major snowstorm to hit that area in five days.

It meant another night scrambling to find a hotel and more uncertainty for a team that hasn't been home since it left for what it thought was a brief road trip on Feb. 2.

After losing in New York a night later, the Wizards traveled to Orlando and upset the Magic on Friday night. They were supposed to fly home right after the game and face Atlanta on Saturday, but the airports in Washington were closed.

The Hawks game was eventually postponed and the Wizards decided to stay in Orlando. Players ended up going to the mall to buy extra clothes and the team stayed there until its flight to Charlotte on Monday.

"It's very rare you have a situation where you get to stay as long (in one spot)—even at home," coach Flip Saunders joked before Tuesday's game.

Now they're about to make Charlotte home for at least an extra night. But at least the latest storm won't affect any games.

Washington's matchup with the Bobcats was its final game before the All-Star break. Many players weren't expected to take the late-night Tuesday flight back home anyway. Instead, they were staying in Charlotte and then flying home or to vacations spots.

"Some guys are flying out of here (Wednesday)," Saunders said. "Some guys are going back to D.C. We'll just have to play it by ear."

And be flexible, again.

# Iverson out at least 2 more games for 76ers

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson will miss the team's next two games because of the lingering illness of one of his children.

Iverson, who has missed the previous three games, will sit out Tuesday against Minnesota and Wednesday at Toronto. Iverson will return for the Sixers' first game following the All-Star break vs. Miami on Feb. 16.

There was no immediate word if Iverson will play in the Feb. 14 All-Star game at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. He was voted an Eastern Conference starter.

Iverson has averaged 14.4 points in 25 games since he returned to the Sixers in December.

# Good times roll at Saints victory parade

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees tosses beads to the crowd during a parade through the central business district of New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010.

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Only a Super Bowl victory parade could upstage Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Carnival floats carrying New Orleans Saints players, coaches and team owner Tom Benson rolled past tens of thousands of jubilant fans in downtown on Tuesday, two days after the 43-year-old team won its first NFL championship.

Players, wearing team jerseys instead of traditional Carnival masks and costumes, tossed beads into the crowd and signed autographs for throngs of screaming fans. Benson shouted "Who Dat!" into a microphone from his perch atop a float. Head coach Sean Payton blew kisses and held the Lombardi Trophy over his head.

"Here's to the best Mardi Gras week in the history of this city," Payton said, raising a glass of champagne during a toast outside the city's historic Gallier Hall.

The parade, a week before the city's signature Fat Tuesday celebration, started outside their home turf at the Louisiana Superdome. Black, gold and white confetti floated over the crowd and a man wearing a Saints jacket held aloft a sign that read, "Happy Lombardi Gras!"

The floats stopped at a reviewing stand so elected officials, including Mayor Ray Nagin and Governor Bobby Jindal could toast the team's 31-17 win over the Indianapolis Colts.

"How's the 'Who Dat' nation feel tonight?" Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees yelled when his float stopped at the reviewing stand. "This toast goes out to you. We love you and we won that championship for you."

Ten Carnival krewes lent floats for the team to ride. More than a dozen marching bands joined the team on its route, which passed by the edge of the French Quarter and ended at the city's convention center. An official crowd estimate wasn't immediately available, but many fans said the gathering seemed larger than any during Mardi Gras.

"This is wilder than Mardi Gras," said Frank V. Smith, 55, a lifelong New Orleans resident who shot photographs of players from the rear of a pickup truck. "I've never seen so many people out here like this. This is beautiful, man."

The Super Bowl win, which capped just the ninth winning season in team history, was a stunning reversal of fortunes for a team once derided as the "Aints." Few players could appreciate that better than fan favorite Deuce McAllister, the team's retired all-time leading rusher who joined the team on the sidelines for the Super Bowl.

"It's been pretty crazy," he said. "Everywhere you go, you can see the pride in the fans."

Fans are grateful for more than just the team's on-field performance. Many credit the team for uniting a city that has struggled with racial divisions and labored to rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which left about 85 percent of the city underwater in August 2005.

"After the hurricane, people were more willing to come back when they realized the Saints were coming back," said Scott Catalanotto, 35, whose 7-year-old son sat on a ladder and yelled for beads.

In the French Quarter, thousands streamed toward the parade route, turning Bourbon Street into a river of black and gold.

Will Kaplan, 28, stood out in a billowing white toga with a gold-colored halo and the word "Breesus" on his back.

His Jesus-inspired costume, he said, was made from sheets he had in a FEMA trailer he stayed in after Hurricane Katrina on the University of New Orleans campus.

"I'm the spirit of the party," he said.

Enduring chilly, windy weather under overcast skies, fans started staking out spots along the parade route more than seven hours before the floats rolled.

Tim Thorn, a 35-year-old landscaper, drove in from Baton Rouge to be among the early birds. He said he gave his daughters, Cameron and Carson, the day off school because the event was too big to miss.

"It's probably the biggest party in the world," he said.

# *Peppers doesn't want long-term deal with Panthers*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—Julius Peppers no longer wants a long-term contract with Carolina, saying the Panthers have ignored him this offseason.

In an interview aired Tuesday morning on Charlotte radio station WFNZ-AM, the five-time Pro Bowl defensive end indicated he's irritated by the team's "silence" and has changed his stance on whether he wants to continue his career in Carolina.

"Last year, at the time, that was the option that I wanted most," Peppers said. "Now it's not."

While agent Carl Carey said last week he believes the Panthers aren't interested in retaining Peppers, Carolina's career sacks leader, team officials haven't announced their plans for the impending free agent. General manager Marty Hurney didn't immediately return a phone message Tuesday.

"How can you say you want to be somewhere when you're not really sure if they want you there because they're not even talking to you?" Peppers said.

It's another twist in a long-running saga between the two sides.

After being held to a career-low 2 1/2 sacks in 2007, the Panthers still offered to make Peppers the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. Peppers on Tuesday provided conflicting reasons on why he rejected the contract.

"That deal was to make me the highest-paid defensive player, but slightly, very slightly," Peppers said. "I didn't really feel the sincerity behind that deal."

But later in the rambling answer during the radio phone interview, Peppers also indicated he wasn't worthy of such a deal.

"I had 2 1/2 sacks that season and they're coming to offer me being the highest-paid defensive player. Like, I can't even accept that," Peppers said. "I'm not deserving of that."

Peppers bounced back with a career-high 14 1/2 sacks in 2008, then announced he wanted to play elsewhere and pleaded with the Panthers to let him leave in free agency. He said Tuesday he wanted out because he was upset with the team's direction under then-defensive coordinator Mike Trgovac.

"In my eyes I didn't see us getting any better on that side of the ball," Peppers said. "I felt like it was time to try somewhere else, do something else. But things changed. They brought in new people."

Trgovac and defensive line coach Sal Sunseri left. Ron Meeks took over the defense and Brian Baker replaced Sunseri. At the same time, the Panthers placed the restrictive franchise tag on Peppers, limiting his options in free agency.

"I never felt that they did that with the intent to keep me here," Peppers said. "I felt like they did that in attempt to send me off somewhere else to get compensation, draft picks or whatever."

There was no deal and Peppers eventually changed his tune, beginning negotiations on a long-term contract. But a deal couldn't be reached and Peppers played under the one-year tender worth an NFL-high $16.7 million. After recording 10 1/2 sacks, Peppers made the Pro Bowl and earned a $1.5 million bonus.

The Panthers could use the franchise tag again in 2010, but it would include a 20 percent raise. Peppers would be due $20.1 million, plus another $1.5 million Pro Bowl bonus and $250,000 for each playoff victory.

Carolina could use the franchise tag again and try to trade Peppers, but Peppers would almost certainly first have to agree to a long-term deal with that team.

Several clubs, such as Philadelphia and New England, could be interested. But there are also questions about Peppers' inconsistency. He acknowledged on Tuesday that even former defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio, now coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars, told him during his rookie year in 2002 that it doesn't appear he's playing hard on every down.

"I told him just because it doesn't look like I'm running as hard as the next man with my arms swinging, sweating and breathing hard doesn't mean I'm not trying as hard," Peppers said. "I'm still trying hard, it just doesn't look like it. I do it easier."

But despite 81 sacks in eight seasons, the 30-year-old Peppers' future is murky. The Panthers have until Feb. 25 to use the franchise tag.

"The silence says a lot without saying anything," Peppers said. "That is kind of a turnoff."

## MLB BRIEFS

### Padres and catcher Yorvit Torrealba finalize deal

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Yorvit Torrealba and the San Diego Padres have finalized a one-year contract that guarantees the catcher $1.25 million. Torrealba gets a $750,000 salary this year under Monday's agreement, and the deal includes a $3.5 million mutual option for 2011 with a $500,000 buyout. He figures to share playing time with Nick Hundley, who started 71 games last year and hit .238 with eight homers and 30 RBIs. Torrealba, who turns 32 in July, spent the last four seasons with the Colorado Rockies and batted .291 with two homers and 31 RBIs in 213 at-bats last year. To clear a roster spot, the Padres asked for unconditional release waivers on right-hander Greg Burke, who was 3-3 with a 4.14 ERA in 48 games for San Diego last year.

### Jacque Jones gets minor league deal from Twins

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Jacque Jones has returned to the Minnesota Twins, agreeing to a minor league contract. Jones began his major league career with Minnesota in 1999 before joining the Chicago Cubs in 2006. The outfielder's best season came in 2002, when he hit .300 with 27 homers and 85 RBIs while the Twins advanced to the AL championship series. Jones hasn't played in a major league game since June 2008, with the Florida Marlins. He spent last season with the Newark Bears in the independent Atlantic League and told the Twins at the winter meetings he was interested in reviving his career and willing to go to Triple-A if necessary. "He's been a good player. We know he's a good person. He plays the game the right way," general manager Bill Smith said. "He was a big part of the Twins' resurgence." Minnesota also announced Tuesday that outfielder Jason Pridie has been claimed off waivers by the New York Mets. That cleared a spot on the 40-man roster for recently signed second baseman Orlando Hudson.

### Astros RHP Lyon recovering from shoulder surgery

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Astros reliever Brandon Lyon had surgery to drain a small cyst in his pitching shoulder but is expected to be ready for spring training. The team said in a statement Tuesday that Lyon had the cyst drained two weeks ago and has been throwing without discomfort since. The right-hander is expected to begin workouts with his new club Feb. 20, when pitchers and catchers report for spring training in Kissimmee, Fla. He might be about 10 days behind in his throwing program, the Astros said. Houston signed Lyon as a free agent in December to a $15 million, three-year contract. "Brandon was experiencing some weakness and discomfort in his shoulder, and we brought him in a couple of weeks ago to be seen," general manager Ed Wade said. "At the time of his pre-signing physical, his right shoulder MRI showed a very small cyst, and when the MRI was repeated recently, it showed that the cyst had enlarged and was pressing on some nerves.

# SLLB meeting tonight

Saipan Little League Baseball is holding a mandatory meeting tonight at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm with SLLB requiring managers of participating teams to attend the affair.

SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi said details about the opening ceremony of the league on Sunday will be discussed at the meeting. ***(PR)***

## EBISUYA

*From Page 28*

when he got up, he also went after Moises. Players from both camps pacified the two cagers, preventing further altercation.

When Pineda fell and failed to make the fastbreak basket, Ebisuya was leading by only a deuce. The lead ballooned to as much as 13 in the fourth quarter, 69-56, before Loyola made one final push to try and steal the win in the last two minutes of Game 3.

Loyola moved within three on several occasions, but poor shot selection muffed its chances to inch in closer and retake the lead. Loyola opted for triples, instead of going for quick two-pointers.

Ebisuya kept the lead and the win with its free throws, going 6-for-10. Jun Abedes went 4-for-6, while Sam Fernandez hit 2-for-4 in the last minute of the match.

Abedes finished with 11 points, redeeming himself from a scoreless Game 2. Opone had his usual numbers in Game 3, tallying a team-high 21 points, while three of his teammates also scored in double figures. Moises nailed 19 and Santos and Francis Rebuyon contributed 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

Tabora top-scored for Loyola with 25 points, but missed a lot of shots in the second half. Ed Cosino added 14, but was scoreless in the fourth, as he sat on the bench for a few minutes before returning late in that canto.

Ferdie de la Torre and James Abuy, who scored in double figures in Games 1 and 2, had off nights in the most important game. De la Torre canned only a free throw after making 18 points each in Games 1 and 2. Abuy, who had 16 and 10 markers in Games 1 and 2, respectively, tallied only five points and failed to make a single shot from downtown. Making matters worse for Loyola was the absence of Ariel Jinang and Danny Bicera.

The Game 3 loss was like déjà vu for Loyola, which was on control of the series opener, only to collapse in the fourth quarter, allowing Ebisuya to steal Game 1, 99-93. Loyola recovered in Game 2, 91-83, but almost had another breakdown. In Game 3, Loyola was on its usual strong start, but in the end could not weather the storm that shattered its championship dreams.

**Ebisuya 78** – Opone 21, Moises 19, Santos 12, Abedes 11, Rebuyon 10, Fernandez 5, Olivos 2, Viola 2.

**University of Loyola 74** – Tabora 25, Cosino 14, Villarin 10, Manalili 6, Abuy 5, Puri 4, Pineda 3, Salazar 2, de la Torre 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-22, 33-38, 54-52, 78-74.

## NONI

*From Page 28*

in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League.

Noni Saipan had three players making it to the Mythical Five selection of the open division with big men Bart Demapan and Kae Bernardo and guard Wowie Abuel joining Saipan Fresh's Jun Estolas and Gil Gapor in the elite group.

Abuel grabbed two more trophies with his regular MVP plum the most coveted among his three awards. The Noni Saipan guard also led the league in assists.

Other statistical leaders in the open division were Saipan Fresh's Lerio Pagarao (best in steals), IT&E's Peter Mendiola (best in rebounds), and Diamond Ali'i's Badong Camacho (best in blocks) and Elmer Esdrelon (best in 3-points).

Noni Saipan swept Saipan Fresh Market in the best-of-three title series with Bernardo adjudged Finals MVP.

In the masters division, which Ebisuya won, 2-1, against University of Loyola, Edwin Santos took the Finals MVP award. Santos scored in double figures in all three games in the title series, making 15 in Game 1, 18 in Game 2, and 12 in the series-clincher Game 3.

Santos was also a member of the Mythical Team, joining University of Loyola's Jun Tabora, Cool Water's Bernard Montano, GEC Pawnshop's Alex Ocampo, and Wushin Corp.'s Sonny Ebuen.

The Ebisuya forward/center reigned in the rebounds department to get his third individual trophy. Santos' teammate, Dante Olivos, also went home with a trophy, topping the assists department. Wushin Corp.'s Art Trajano and Ferdie Tobias prevailed in blocks and steals, respectively, while Montano was named 3-point king in the masters division.

The regular season MVP in the masters division went to Tabora.

Presentation of team and individual awards in the open division was held on Saturday with United Workers Movement president Rabby Sayed and PILCOWA officials handing the trophies to winners.

Individual top performers in the masters division received their trophies on Tuesday with Philippine's new labor attaché for the CNMI, Carmelina R. Francisco-Velasquez, presenting the awards.

## FROM

*From Page 28*

became a "winner."

### Seeing victory in losing

Mancao started running at the Hopwood Junior High School Field when he was 10 years old, as the track and field facility at Oleai Sports Complex had not been built yet. However, Mancao quickly quit before sprinter Darrel Roligot lured him back to running in 2006 after the latter saw the former watched the 2006 Micronesian Games.

"When athletes from the 2005 MAC (Micronesian Athletics Championships in Palau) came to Saipan to compete, I ran from my house from Garapan to Oleai just to watch the tournament from 4:30pm to 7pm then ran back home. After the meet, Darrel Roligat invited me to go and join him in practice. I told him I'll try when I have time. One day, I decided to give it a shot and I followed him to track practice. In the first day of practice, I did warm ups and sprints. I was so excited and shy at the same time," said Mancao, who started in sprints with coach Elias Rangamar before he trained under Robin Sapong for middle and long distance races.

Then came his first official competition, the 2006 All Schools Meet where he represented Marianas High School and came only in sixth place.

This disappointing finish could have made one quit at once, but not Mancao, who viewed his dismal debut as a challenge.

"What made me stay was my failure. I know every one loves to win all the time, but I like to lose because it motivates me to get stronger and faster and that's how I aim for victories. After that, I got serious in my sophomore year and run road races and in track meets," Mancao said.

In the next few years, Mancao led the MHS Dolphins to victories in the All Schools Meet and became a perennial winner of long and middle distance races in his age group.

### No quitter

Mancao's wins in local races earned him a spot on the CNMI Team that competed in the Micronesian Athletics Championships/ Oceania Regional Championships in Gold Coast, Australia last year.

Up against much tougher and seasoned runners, including teammate Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel almost did not finish the grueling 5,000m race, but the "no quitter" attitude in him prevailed.

Rangamar in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* said he saw Mancao's color change, gasps for air, and legs wobble a few meters from the finish line. The CNMI coach cheered on Mancao and told him it was too late to quit

Mancao continued racing in a very cold weather and was rewarded with a bronze medal.

Several years ago, a stubborn Mancao joined a half marathon event. At that time, Mancao was only 15 and did not have enough stamina and training needed for the lung-busting race.

However, he completed the race, crossing the finish line at Micro Beach with a pair of weak legs and almost collapsed in the arms of Sapong.

"I love to run longer. I was crazy to do my first half marathon at the age 15. Now I just focus on 10k and 5k cross country/road races," Mancao said.

He also tried triathlon via the Tagaman in 2008 and a problem in his bike did not prevent him from finishing the race.

### Triathlon and training

Two years ago, Mancao added triathlon to his list of sports.

"Triathlon sounds very intense and it is. I was motivated watching XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman every year. I told myself when I get older I will do it. This thought kept haunting me, so I finally did it in 2008. I finished first in the junior division of Tagaman and had a respectable finish in XTERRA," he added.

Mancao admitted he was a poor swimmer when he started and his biking skills were not that good. However, through the help of local triathletes, he made significant improvements in swimming and biking.

"I race and trained with Fred Camacho, Mamiko and Joshua Berger, and Mieko Carey. When you train with a group you have a stronger motivation," Mancao said.

Mancao said devoting a lot of time in training and joining frequent races while maintaining good standing in school is a tough task for a student-athlete like him.

"It is very challenging for an athlete to balance school, work, and training. I don't know how others overcome it but for me, I just stay positive and committed to sports. Once I have that attitude, competing and training become a passion instead of a habit," the 18-year-old athlete said.

"There are times when I trained alone on the road and on trail runs. I trained under Brandon Wanket for the Oceania meet. He pushed me to the limits every day. I trained for three hours after school then I biked home. On weekends, I hit hills and do early morning runs. Now I am here in Guam training under Jay Antonio and his distance runners," Mancao added.

In triathlon, Mancao trains with Jazy Garcia of Guam.

### No chasing game

Mancao said he will return on Saipan to personally receive his award, which he said he did not "chase."

He urged aspiring athletes to do the same.

"You don't have to chase this award to be recognized. Well I didn't, I just did what I love to do. Don't hope to be the best in the first week of training. It takes a long process. If you believe and be true to yourself then you can achieve anything you have set your mind into. Appreciate your parents, coaches, friends, teammates, and peers, as they are there to help you out," Mancao said.

The NMASA Male Student awardee thanked NMASA members for choosing him for the prestigious award and hopes his story will leave a mark in the hearts and mind of young athletes in the CNMI.

"I want them to remember how I started with failures to be where I am right now. I want them to think of my appreciation and commitment to sports even through trying times," said Mancao, who is aiming to race in NCAA events in Hawaii and Colorado.

## NEW

*From Page 28*

end and matches will resume on Saturday.

Also set to continue this weekend is the juniors singles, while adults singles will also start its competition in the second week of the annual tournament.

The boys' 14-and-under singles has the most entries with 15, the girls' 10-and-under has 12, the boys' 10-and-under has 10, and the girls' 14-and-under and boys' 18-and-under have eight each.

From 15, the boys' 14-and-under singles is already down to eight players after last weekend's games. Top seed Jake Lee drew a bye, joining Quintin Ramsey, Angelo Jones, Chris Park, Tommy Choi, Carl Dela Cruz, Aaron Lee, and Chris Cajigan in the quarterfinals.

The girls' 10-and-under is also in the quarterfinals round with Tammy Ackerman, Riley Buenaventura, Liza Atalig, Isabel Heras, Julia Ishikawa, Carol Lee, Mimi Sakano, and Sakura Imaya earning slots to the next round.

Only one game was played in the boys' 18-and-under singles last week with Daniel Park beating Sung Hoon Ham in the first round, 8-2, to join top seed Benjie Decena, Nathan and Andy Nutting, Christian Miller, R.J. Aquino, Clay McCullough-Stearns, and Rafael Jones in the quarterfinals.

Three players gained tickets to the next round—Luther Lizama, Alex Park, and Clayton Izuka—and are now in the company of early qualifiers Michael Jones, Moris Villanueva, Haruya Eda, Steven Goodwin, and Colin Ramsey.

Gemmalie Eugenio won the lone preliminary game in the girls' 14-and-under division, beating Lucy Park, 8-2, to join Mikayla Lopez, Bracken, Adele Hudkins, Emily Jones, Alina Ishikawa, Gabrielle Race, and Rastguiy in the quarterfinals.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 32 | 17 | .653 | – |
| Toronto | 28 | 23 | .549 | 5 |
| Philadelphia | 20 | 31 | .392 | 13 |
| New York | 19 | 32 | .373 | 14 |
| New Jersey | 4 | 47 | .078 | 29 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 35 | 17 | .673 | – |
| Atlanta | 33 | 17 | .660 | 1 |
| Charlotte | 25 | 25 | .500 | 9 |
| Miami | 25 | 27 | .481 | 10 |
| Washington | 17 | 33 | .340 | 17 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 42 | 11 | .792 | – |
| Chicago | 25 | 25 | .500 | 15 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 23 | 27 | .460 | 17 1/2 |
| Detroit | 18 | 32 | .360 | 22 1/2 |
| Indiana | 18 | 34 | .346 | 23 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 32 | 20 | .615 | – |
| San Antonio | 29 | 21 | .580 | 2 |
| Houston | 27 | 24 | .529 | 4 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 27 | 25 | .519 | 5 |
| Memphis | 26 | 25 | .510 | 5 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 35 | 17 | .673 | – |
| Utah | 32 | 18 | .640 | 2 |
| Oklahoma City | 30 | 21 | .588 | 4 1/2 |
| Portland | 30 | 24 | .556 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 39 | .250 | 22 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 40 | 13 | .755 | – |
| Phoenix | 31 | 21 | .596 | 8 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 21 | 30 | .412 | 18 |
| Sacramento | 17 | 34 | .333 | 22 |
| Golden State | 13 | 37 | .260 | 25 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Charlotte 94, Washington 92
Chicago 109, Indiana 101
Cleveland 104, New Jersey 97
Philadelphia 119, Minnesota 97
Miami 99, Houston 66
Sacramento 118, New York 114, OT
Detroit 93, Milwaukee 81
Atlanta 108, Memphis 94
Denver 127, Dallas 91
Oklahoma City 89, Portland 77
Utah 109, L.A. Clippers 99

### NBA LEADERS

**Scoring**

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James, CLE | 52 | 522 | 407 | 1548 | 29.8 |
| Anthony, DEN | 38 | 384 | 327 | 1130 | 29.7 |
| Durant, OKC | 50 | 488 | 435 | 1484 | 29.7 |
| Bryant, LAL | 51 | 527 | 302 | 1426 | 28.0 |
| Wade, MIA | 51 | 483 | 349 | 1369 | 26.8 |
| Ellis, GOL | 48 | 494 | 225 | 1259 | 26.2 |
| Nowitzki, DAL | 50 | 440 | 331 | 1240 | 24.8 |
| Bosh, TOR | 51 | 444 | 351 | 1245 | 24.4 |
| Roy, POR | 40 | 328 | 213 | 924 | 23.1 |
| Johnson, ATL | 49 | 420 | 146 | 1073 | 21.9 |
| Stoudemire, PHX | 52 | 413 | 274 | 1100 | 21.2 |
| Maggette, GOL | 47 | 312 | 343 | 977 | 20.8 |
| Jackson, CHA | 49 | 367 | 203 | 1011 | 20.6 |
| Randolph, MEM | 50 | 412 | 195 | 1025 | 20.5 |
| Evans, SAC | 45 | 332 | 227 | 915 | 20.3 |
| Kaman, LAC | 44 | 370 | 147 | 887 | 20.2 |
| Lee, NYK | 50 | 419 | 159 | 997 | 19.9 |
| Rose, CHI | 49 | 411 | 149 | 976 | 19.9 |
| Gay, MEM | 48 | 365 | 185 | 953 | 19.9 |
| Brooks, HOU | 50 | 344 | 164 | 977 | 19.5 |

**FG Percentage**

| | FG | FGA | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Perkins, BOS | 220 | 356 | .618 |
| Howard, ORL | 302 | 505 | .598 |
| Gasol, MEM | 278 | 471 | .590 |
| Hilario, DEN | 267 | 460 | .580 |
| Bynum, LAL | 305 | 537 | .568 |
| Millsap, UTA | 225 | 398 | .565 |
| Haywood, WAS | 185 | 330 | .561 |
| Horford, ATL | 274 | 489 | .560 |
| O'Neal, CLE | 220 | 394 | .558 |
| Lee, NYK | 419 | 751 | .558 |

**Rebounds**

| | G | OFF | DEF | TOT | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Howard, ORL | 52 | 186 | 509 | 695 | 13.4 |
| Camby, LAC | 49 | 160 | 433 | 593 | 12.1 |
| Noah, CHI | 46 | 176 | 376 | 552 | 12.0 |
| Randolph, MEM | 50 | 215 | 361 | 576 | 11.5 |
| Lee, NYK | 50 | 127 | 446 | 573 | 11.5 |
| Bosh, TOR | 51 | 155 | 428 | 583 | 11.4 |
| Wallace, CHA | 47 | 95 | 417 | 512 | 10.9 |
| Duncan, SAN | 47 | 152 | 355 | 507 | 10.8 |
| Boozer, UTA | 46 | 89 | 406 | 495 | 10.8 |
| Haywood, WAS | 48 | 196 | 300 | 496 | 10.3 |

**Assists**

| | G | AST | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|
| Paul, NOR | 38 | 424 | 11.2 |
| Nash, PHX | 52 | 576 | 11.1 |
| Rondo, BOS | 48 | 471 | 9.8 |
| Williams, UTA | 44 | 428 | 9.7 |
| Kidd, DAL | 50 | 467 | 9.3 |
| James, CLE | 52 | 425 | 8.2 |
| B. Davis, LAC | 50 | 396 | 7.9 |
| Westbrook, OKC | 50 | 375 | 7.5 |
| Wade, MIA | 51 | 327 | 6.4 |
| Jennings, MIL | 49 | 308 | 6.3 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2010 Northern Passage

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers listen during the race briefing for the 2010 Northern Passage last week at the upper parking lot of Palms Resort.

PIC Saipan bikers pose for a group photo after the race.

Full course top finisher Butch Sublemente gestures as he heads to the uphill climb at the FEBC road.

Tyce Misters pedals hard as he tries to catch up with race leader Butch Sublemente.

Alexander Bateman heads back to Palms Resort after going through rubbles at the FEBC road.

Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly smiles for the camera, as he chases Tyce Mister and Butch Sublemente.

Above, Three riders negotiate the coral road going up to FEBC.

Right, Mario Galang, left, and Lewie Tenorio heads up to FEBC road.

Rookie course runner-up Kathryn Barry, center, poses with race organizer Brad Ruszala, left, and MVA's Bruce Bateman during the awards ceremony.

Kimiko Hasegawa smiles as she nears the finish line.

**Good times roll at Saints victory parade**

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Anthony returns from injury to help Denver win**

24



# Ebisuya clinches masters crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ebisuya dug itself into a deep hole but pulled itself out of it, completing a come-from-behind win against University of Loyola, 78-74, in the series-clincher Game 3 of their title showdown in the masters division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Tuesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Ebisuya fell behind by as much as 19 points in the second quarter, but just like what it did in Game 1, the eventual champions found ways to recover and wrap up the short best-of-three series.

A horrible Ebisuya start gave Loyola early control of the rubber match. William Opone scored Ebisuya's lone field goal in the first six minutes of the opening quarter, allowing Loyola to take a 16-2 lead. The first period ended with Loyola still ahead by double digits, 22-10.

A quick 9-0 run at the start of the second canto increased Loyola's lead to 19 points, 31-12, before things fell apart for the Elmer Pineda-coached squad.

Opone, Edwin Santos, and Ernie Moises teamed up in dropping a 16-0 bomb to slice Loyola's lead to three, 28-31, with less than three minutes left in the first half. A rally-halting three-point play from Ed Cosino then gave Loyola more distance and the team went on to end the first half still on top, 38-33.

However, momentum had already shifted to Ebisuya's side in the second half, as it successfully stole the driver's seat and withstood Loyola's repeated comeback bids in the fourth canto.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players of Ebisuya pose with their trophy after beating University of Loyola in the masters division best-of-three finals of the PILCOWA caging Tuesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Ebisuya took a 54-52 lead after the intense third quarter, which saw Loyola players reacting against the fouls Moises committed. Going into the last three minutes of the third canto, Moises banged into Melvin Villarin in a fastbreak play. Villarin fell on the ground and later sustained a swollen elbow, which he used to cushion his fall.

Villarin attempted to confront Moises but cooler heads stepped in. Moises was lucky to be slapped with only a regular foul. Moises was even luckier a few minutes later, as he was not charged with a foul against a driving Pineda. Pineda was sprinting to the basket, made a side step, but tripped and eventually lost the ball, as Moises stuck his foot a bit to the former's path.

Pineda stayed on the floor for a while, holding on to his left knee, but

See EBISUYA on Page 26

## Noni, Ebisuya players dominate individual awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If Noni Saipan and Ebisuya builds a trophy case, theirs will have a lot on display, as players from these champion teams dominated the individual awards

See NONI on Page 26

NoniSaipan's Kae Bernardo shows his Finals MVP and Mythical Five trophies during the awards ceremony for the open division of the PILCOWA caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matthew Mancao is seen here competing in a middle distance race during last year's All Schools Meet at the Oleai Sports Complex track oval.

MATTHEW MANCAO

## From quitter to winner

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

*First of a five-part series*

*(Editor's Note: On Tuesday, Feb. 16, NMASA will be holdings its 2009 Sports Banquet. To mark the occasion,* Saipan Tribune *will be publishing a series of articles that will pay tribute to the winners of the annual awards night)*

Four years ago, Matthew Mancao finished sixth in a running event of a track meet. Now he is among the best in the field, earning him the 2009 NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Year Award.

Mancao, who will be receiving his award on Tuesday during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet, was given the coveted plum for his notable performance in both running and triathlon events last year.

He started 2009 with a victory in the Winter Festival of Runs, ruling the 10K event. Three months later, Mancao joined forces with swimmer Rezne Wong and biker Rene Calage to top the team event in the 2009 Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship and a week after XTERRA, the former did all three legs of the Tagaman. In the succeeding months, Mancao became a perennial participant and contender in long/middle distance races and triathlon event.

His biggest event in 2009 came in August when he represented the CNMI to Micronesian Athletics Championships/Oceania Regional Championships and helped the Commonwealth grab the overall MAC title against Guam. Mancao won a silver medal in the 10,000m race and bronze medal in both the 3,000m and 5,000m runs.

The Marianas High School graduate did not achieve success overnight and told *Saipan Tribune* how a "loser"

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## New record in Coconut Classic netfest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The young and old mixed it up in the Wise Woman Village 2010 Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, drawing a record number of participants in the annual tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Negahr Rastguiy serves while teammate Gary Ramsey looks on during their game against Roy Pangelinan and Moris Villanueva in the mixed-up doubles event of the 2009 Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament on Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.

Coconut Classic started last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts and had 54 pairs competing in the unique mixed-up doubles, which had young players teaming up with older ones or beginners joining forces with advanced netters.

In the same event last year, 50 pairs joined the mixed-up doubles with the tandem of junior player Negahr Rastguiy and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor Peter Loyola prevailing in the finals over the duo of Nicholas Son and Jean Bracken, 8-6.

This year, Rastguiy is back to defend the title with a different partner in Gary Ramsey and they are at the bottom half of the 64-team draw. Loyola's new teammate is Amami Sakano and they are also at the bottom half of the draw.

Micronesian Games gold medalist Todd Montgomery and Colin Ramsey are at the top half of the draw and are seeded first in the tournament.

Preliminary games in the mixed-up doubles were already played last week-

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